

**Capital's orchestra gets a reprieve**

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# THE JERUSALEM POST

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**Gandhi signs end to Tamil war**

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**Taken aback by furor, insists on 'equitable distribution' to Jews and Arabs**

## U.S. firm hesitates on West Bank water drill

By JOEL GREENBERG  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

**BETHLEHEM.** — The American firm slated to carry out a controversial Israeli water drilling scheme in the West Bank says it will not undertake the project if it will jeopardize Arab water supplies.

The statement was contained in a letter to Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij from Gilman Hill, founding trustee of the Mt. Moriah Trust, a technological development company based in Denver, Colorado, which specializes in water and oil drilling.

Its Israeli subsidiary, the Moriah Technology and Energy Corporation, is to carry out the planned water-drilling project near Herodion, northeast of Bethlehem, using a new deep-drilling technology.

The project is to pump some 18 million cubic metres of water a year, mostly to Jerusalem and Jewish settlements, with up to one-third of the water going to Arab communities, according to sources involved with the scheme.

Some water experts and Arab mayors in the Bethlehem area have warned that the project could deplete wells used by Arab communities in the region.

"We will not enter into a project which would use water in an inequitable way," said Hill's son, Craig, who delivered his father's letter to Freij this week. "Our purpose in developing water in the West Bank is to see water used justly, and distributed equitably to the people of the West Bank, both Jews and Arabs. We are not willing to fund something that is inequitable."

The Judea and Samaria Civil Administration has said it

would only approve the scheme if it included safeguards for Arab water supplies.

Craig Hill said that though Moriah had only last month received approval from Israeli authorities to pursue the project, the company would only act if Freij was satisfied that the scheme would not harm Arab water supplies. Freij has suggested that the U.S. State Department send an independent hydrology expert to evaluate the impact of the project.

In his 11-page letter to Freij laced with New Testament quotations, Gilman Hill asserted: "I would not enter into any project which I believe would bring harm or suffering to your people of Bethlehem or the West Bank. I will pursue this water development project only if I am convinced...that it will significantly improve the...quality of life of your people."

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

## Murphy reports on Israel's growing military supremacy

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Jerusalem Post Correspondent  
WASHINGTON. — Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, appearing before a congressional panel, presented what amounted to a status report on the Middle East and said that Israel's regional military supremacy was widening.

In his quarterly testimony before the House Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the assistant secretary for Near East Affairs said, "Our assessment, based on expert inter-agency analysis, confirms that Israel has grown stronger militarily in the region in absolute terms — and more importantly, relative to its potential adversaries — and that Israel's margin of superiority continues to grow."

Some observers said that Murphy's testimony took into account a probable uphill congressional fight when the administration resubmits its Saudi arms package in the fall. The administration contends that such advanced arms deals do not pose a threat to Israel's qualitative military edge in the region.

A State Department official said earlier that Pentagon and State Department military experts had provided a closed briefing session for the subcommittee members 10 days ago that spelled out the extent of Israel's military lead in the Mideast.

Murphy also discussed other issues such as the Lavi, the Middle

East peace process, the West Bank, U.S. relations with Syria, and the administration's views on closing the PLO office in Washington.

On the Lavi, Murphy said: "We and the government of Israel agree that the Lavi cannot be funded within the levels of our security assistance programme without eliminating other important projects." The administration has said repeatedly that it would not raise the current level of military aid, now provided at \$1.8 billion per annum.

On his recent talks in Geneva with his Soviet counterpart, Vladimir Polyakov, on the convening of an international Middle East peace conference, Murphy said: "They made no new commitments and reiterated many familiar positions, and there are still important gaps between Soviet and U.S. views on how to proceed. We are waiting for a demonstration that the Soviets are willing to play a constructive role, and that they are willing to change their negative policies limiting emigration of Soviet Jews and continuing to withhold diplomatic recognition of Israel."

Murphy was asked by congressmen about the administration's view on the significance of the Soviet consular delegation in Israel as a step towards renewing full diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel. He responded, "It is a hint. It is not much more than that."

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)



A crop-sprayer, called in to help douse yesterday's forest fire between Ma'ale Hahamisha and Kiryat Anavim, drops a load of water over the burning trees as a member of one of the two Jerusalem Hills kibbutzim fights the blaze on the ground. Story, page 2 (Pictures by Y. Zaken/Media)

**'A twisted, perverted notion'**

## Peres blasts Dekel on 'transfer' proposal

By DVORAH GETZLER

Post Knesset Correspondent  
The idea of a transfer of the Arab population of this country, such as was raised this week by Deputy Defence Minister Michael Dekel, is a "twisted, perverted" notion that can only immeasurably damage the state and its good name, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres thundered from the Knesset podium yesterday.

Dekel said in a speech on Monday that the Arabs of Judea and Samaria should be transferred to Jordan with western aid.

His remarks, at a meeting of the Netanya Herut party branch, were reported in some papers yesterday.

Prime Minister Shamir yesterday

distanced himself from Dekel's espousal of the "transfer," saying that it is a "private idea which does not conform with the spirit of the Likud."

Sources close to Shamir said that although the prime minister is opposed to Dekel's statements, he would resist any calls to punish the deputy defence minister by removing him from office.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin dissociated himself yesterday from his deputy's statements. Dekel's policy, Rabin told a Labour party meeting, was "not the policy of the Defence Ministry."

Yesterday, Dekel told Israel

(Continued on Back Page)

## Soviets leave for Moscow briefing

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Yevgeny Antipov, head of the Soviet consular delegation in Israel, is going to Moscow today, together with two other members of the delegation, for consultations regarding the future plans of the mission here.

Meanwhile, the Finnish embassy in Tel Aviv which represents the Soviet Union's interests in Israel, has rented an additional flat above the Soviet Interests Section's office on Sharetz street in Tel Aviv, near Kikar Hamedina where a number of embassies have their offices. During the past three weeks an average of 150 people have called every day on the Soviet delegation.

## Grenade kills two Gaza boys

**KHAN YUNIS.** — Two local boys were killed and seven others and an elderly man were injured in a grenade explosion yesterday.

The incident took place near Ma'an junction in the southern Gaza Strip. A sack with three Soviet-manufactured F-1 grenades had been tied to the outside wall of an oil storage shed. After the boys discovered the grenades they carried the plastic bag containing them to a nearby store and after playing with the safety pins for some time, one of the devices exploded.

Security forces, local police, IDF units and Border Police immediately sealed off the area and conducted a search for additional grenades.

## Blatman knocks holes in Demjanjuk's alibi

By ERNIE MEYER

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
Former Red Army artillery man John Demjanjuk came under heavy bombardment yesterday as verbal salvos fired by the prosecution severely damaged his alibi.

State Attorney Yona Blatman scored his greatest hits in his tenacious attacks on the accused's alibi for the crucial summer-1942-to-summer-1943 period, when the prosecution places Demjanjuk at Treblinka. The accused, testifying in his own defence for the first full day, has claimed that during all that time he was at the German prisoner of war camp at Chelm. But Blatman confronted him with the fact that in his 1978 denaturalization hearing in the U.S., he did not even mention the name of that all-important camp.

Other points in Demjanjuk's defence that came under attack by Blatman were the following: the date of his capture by the Germans in the Crimea; the identity of his commanding officer, a man named Dubowetz; whether there were Jewish *kapos* and men in his POW camp and later in the Vlassov army; when and where Demjanjuk was eventually registered during his time as a prisoner.



•and whether there were Rumanian soldiers guarding Chelm.

Blatman got off to a slow start at the beginning of the session, but later hit his stride when it came to the issue of the Chelm period and also demonstrated the solid legal work with which his attack was prepared.

Blatman started out by asking the witness whether he was surprised by the 1976 letter from the U.S. Immigration Service, which challenged the information under which he had obtained his entry visa in 1952.

Demjanjuk: "I was not only surprised, but also felt that a big injustice was being done to me, which I will fight till the end. But I'm happy I'm in Israel and not in Russia. There my bones would long be rotting under the ground."

At this presiding judge Dov Levind could not resist quipping:

(Continued on Page 7)

**Lebanese newspaper:**

## Israel steps up bid to free prisoners

By DAVID RUDGE

Jerusalem Post Reporter  
According to a Lebanese newspaper, Israel is stepping up its efforts to try to secure the return of the airman captured by the Amal Shi'ite organization and two missing IDF soldiers.

The Beirut-based *Al Nahar*

**Amal rejects**

The Shi'ite Amal militia last night said in Beirut that it had rejected an Israeli proposal to swap Israeli prisoners for 250 Shi'ites. The Amal statement, quoted by Israeli Radio at midnight, termed the Israeli proposal "extortion."

newspaper reported yesterday that overtures had been made to Amal and the radical Iranian-backed Hizbullah which is believed to be holding the two missing soldiers.

According to the paper, Tati-Ahuf David Agmon, head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison unit, met on Tuesday with Amal leaders.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

## Chernobyl bosses sent to labour camp

**CHERNOBYL (Reuters).** — The former director of the Chernobyl plant, scene of the world's worst nuclear accident last year, was yesterday sentenced to 10 years in a labour camp.

The former chief engineer of the plant and his deputy were also sentenced to 10 years at the end of a three-week trial in Chernobyl, 18 km. southeast of the station.

All three were found guilty of gross violation of safety regulations which led to an explosion. A total of 31 people have been officially reported to have died as a result of the blast.

The former director, Viktor Bryukhanov, was also found guilty of abuse of power for which he was given five years, but the two sentences will run concurrently.

Together with the two engineers, Nikolai Fomin and Anatoly Dyatlov, Bryukhanov was arrested some six weeks after the explosion on

April 26, 1986, which sent a radiation cloud across Europe.

Boris Rogozhkin, shift chief at the plant's fourth reactor where the blast took place, was given five years. The reactor's overall chief, Alexander Kovalenko, was sentenced to three years and a senior engineer, Yuri Laushkin, to two years.

The six showed no obvious emotion when the sentences were read out by Judge Raimond Brize, but several of their relatives present in the courtroom wept.

Bryukhanov, Fomin and Dyatlov had pleaded only partially guilty to the charges against them. They said they accepted they were professionally responsible for the accident but denied criminal liability.

Kovalenko, Rogozhkin and Laushkin had pleaded not guilty.

"There was an atmosphere of lack of control and lack of responsibility at the plant," the judge said. Chernobyl information director

Alexander Kovalenko, who has the same name as one of the defendants, told foreign reporters there would be four more hearings involving other people in connection with the disaster.

These hearings would seek to establish who was responsible for technical failures in design and construction of the plant, for failings in medical and evacuation procedures after the explosion, and for security errors, he added.

Judge Brize said Bryukhanov should bear the heaviest responsibility for the accident. Bryukhanov, who said he was ill at the time, and Fomin, were in bed when the accident took place at 1:23 a.m.

Summing up in an improvised courtroom, Brize said the power station had been badly run and discipline was poor. People played cards and dominoes and wrote letters while they were at work, he said.

**Last chance before recess**

## Early election hopes get boost from Shas MK

By ASHER WALLFISH AND MENACHEM SHALEV

Jerusalem Post Reporters  
Speculation surged anew in the Knesset yesterday around the Alignment's prospects of pushing through a bill at next Wednesday's Knesset session to hold early elections.

That date constitutes the last chance, for considering such a bill because the summer recess starts at the end of next week, and such bills cannot be tabled during recess.

But a number of Labour Alignment Knesset members, as well as the Mapam faction, seem reluctant to raise the early election issue now. They point out that even if such a bill would be passed next week it would only be for a preliminary reading, while the final vote on an election bill, setting an early date, could be taken only in October following the Knesset summer recess.

The fresh wave of excitement came after supporters of early elections appeared to have increased their assured 59 votes, to 60, following the statement by Shas MK Ya'acov Yosef, that he too favoured an early election. The rest of the four-man Shas faction support the Likud line of holding elections on the mandatory date in November 1988.

Talk that Kach MK Meir Kahane would provide the crucial 61st vote to tip the balance in favour of early elections and hence against the Likud was scotched, after Kahane told Likud whip Yehoshua Matza: "I don't touch 'treifa' (carion)." His reference being to an "unclean" Alignment election initiative.

Thus, while the Alignment and its allies remained stuck with their possible 60 votes (one short of the absolute majority needed), Likud Deputy Minister Ronnie Milo put a fox among the chickens with his harsh warning to the Alignment, that "if the Alignment tables and early elections bill, it would automatically be violating the coalition

agreement, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will dismiss all the Alignment cabinet ministers." It's thought that he may have spoken without consulting Prime Minister Shamir.

Shamir yesterday depicted Labour's efforts to muster a Knesset majority for early elections as "a final act of desperation" by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Shamir told Likud ministers that Peres was apparently being spurred on by the fact that the issue of the international conference was "withering away."

Shamir told the ministers, who met in Jerusalem, that although he was mindful of the possibility that elections at this time might be beneficial for the Likud, they would be disastrous for the country.

The ministers decided to prohibit any Likud MK from leaving the country before the Knesset recesses next Wednesday.

Sources in the Likud yesterday blamed Interior Ministry Director-General Arye Deri for the signs of "rebellion" in Shas. The sources said that it was clear to them that Deri wished to depose, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz as Shas leader and was therefore working for early elections. They cited Deri's lobbying as the main reason for MK Ya'acov Yosef's statement yesterday that he would support early elections.

The Alignment's position on early elections did not seem cut and dried yesterday after this reporter found reservations among many MKs. Jacques Amir told *The Jerusalem Post*: "I spoke to 10 faction members today and I couldn't find anybody who favours early elections. As far as I know, the only two men who want them are Shimon Peres and Rafi Edri, the faction chairman."

"I shall not support early elections unless I am sure we can form a government afterwards without the Likud, which is not the case right now."

He added: "Our Alignment supporters say that today is not the right time for elections, and they are worried about the effect on the wage

(Continued on Page 7)

**Virshubski out, Atshe in**

## Shinui in merger with Liberal splinter groups

By MENACHEM SHALEV

Post Political Reporter  
Shinui, the Independent Liberal Party and the Liberal Centre decided last night to join in forming a centrist-liberal bloc, leaving Shinui MK Mordechai Virshubski out in the cold.

Virshubski, who announced at the Shinui central committee meeting that he was abandoning the party because of the new central bloc's partial endorsement of West Bank settlements, told his former colleagues in an emotional address "you go your way and I'll go mine."

Calling Shinui a "tired and worn-out party," Virshubski said that those who were insisting that he give up his Knesset seat are "dreaming."

MK Amnon Rubinstein, who is to head the new bloc, chastised Virshubski for rejecting the will of the

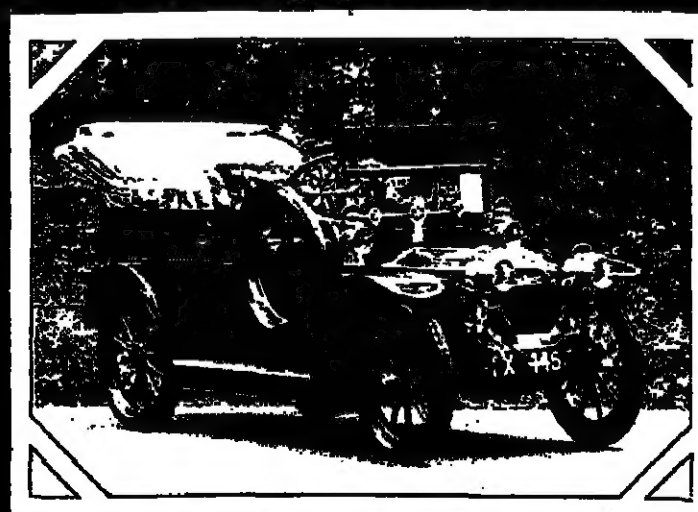
majority. "In a democratic party, the majority decides," he said, "not like what goes on among the ruffians on the right. Whoever refuses to recognize this principle would resign and not take his seat to another list." Virshubski has been quietly negotiating with the Citizens Rights Movement on joining their list for the next elections.

Rubinstein expressed confidence that the new bloc would garner twice as many votes as Shinui did in the last elections, when it won three seats.

Virshubski's departure was offset by MK Zaidan Atshe's return to the fold.

The ILP central committee as well as members of the partially defunct Liberal Centre also met in Tel Aviv last night and approved the merger with Shinui.

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	29.7.87	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	11	17	23	Cloudy
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BIRMINGHAM	14	17	23	Cloudy
CHICAGO	17	27	38	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	11	17	23	Cloudy
DUBLIN	11	17	23	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	11	17	23	Cloudy
GENEVA	11	17	23	Cloudy
HONG KONG	23	27	31	Cloudy
KOBE	23	27	31	Cloudy
LONDON	11	17	23	Cloudy
MADRID	11	17	23	Cloudy
MILAN	11	17	23	Cloudy
MONTREAL	11	17	23	Cloudy
MOSCOW	11	17	23	Cloudy
PARIS	11	17	23	Cloudy
ROME	11	17	23	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	11	17	23	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	11	17	23	Cloudy
TOKYO	23	27	31	Cloudy
TORONTO	11	17	23	Cloudy
ZURICH	11	17	23	Cloudy

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## THE WEATHER

Forecast: A slight drop in temperature in the mountains. Temperature will continue to drop on Friday and Saturday.

	Yesterday	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
Jerusalem	15	23	32	35
Golan	15	23	32	35
Nahariya	15	23	32	35
Safed	15	23	32	35
Haifa Port	15	23	32	35
Tiberias	15	23	32	35
Nazareth	15	23	32	35
Afula	15	23	32	35
Shomron	15	23	32	35
Tel Aviv	20	24	32	35
B-G Airport	20	24	32	35
Jericho	20	24	32	35
Gaza	20	24	32	35
Beer Sheva	20	24	32	35
Eilat	12	26	44	44

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Avraham Agmon, director-general of the Delek Co., has been elected chairman of the Association of Friends of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. He succeeds Mr. Arnon Gafni.

Elected deputy chairmen of the Association were Mr. Michael Federman of the Dan Hotel chain and Mr. Itzhak Weisman, director-general of the American-Israeli Blades Company.

## France to buy 6 Hercules craft from Israel

Jerusalem Post Correspondent LONDON. — France is to purchase six Hercules transport aircraft from Israel, despite their risk of alienating several Arab states with which French defence companies trade extensively, it was reported here yesterday.

The authoritative Jane's Defence Weekly reported that negotiations for the deal have been going on for several months, and that the sale could go through in the next few weeks. France is buying a total of 12 of the U.S.-made Hercules C-130 aircraft — six of them new from manufacturers Lockheed-Georgia, and six second-hand from Israel.

## SLA denies shelling village

Jerusalem Post Reporter ROSH HANIKRA. — The South Lebanese Army yesterday denied reports that it shelled the Shi'ite village of Hays north of the security zone.

Lebanese papers had reported that six civilians, including children, were wounded and five houses badly damaged in Monday afternoon's shelling of the village of Hays.

The papers said the rounds were fired from nearby SLA strongholds near Yatar and Hazan, on the northern border of the security zone.

They reported that the "unprovoked" bombardment had aroused bitter anger and resentment among the residents of Hays who, until now, had tried to keep the peace in their settlement.

The residents, the papers said, were threatening retaliatory action against the villages of the SLA soldiers manning the positions.

## MK Peled lobbies against anti-terror bill in U.S.

Post Diplomatic Correspondent Progressive List for Peace MK Mattityahu Peled has sent letters to all members of the U.S. Senate asking them to vote against "The Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987" which is currently being debated.

The bill, it is expected, will lead among other things to the closure of the PLO's offices in New York and Washington D.C.

In his letters, Peled disputes the designation of the bill as "pro-Israeli," and argues that it can only help "the hardliners in the Israeli cabinet" who refuse to talk to the PLO.

Passage of the bill closing the PLO offices, he would... constitute a grave setback for the Middle East peace process," writes Peled. He adds: "It would mean total abdication by the U.S. of any role as a mediator in the Middle East conflict."

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

# Peres accuses Moscow of escalating arms race

By DVORAH GETZLER  
Post Knesset Reporter

The Soviet Union owes an explanation for its escalation of the arms race in the Middle East, Foreign Minister Peres told the Knesset yesterday.

If the Soviets are sincere, he added, they should start working for peace where they have the most influence — in those countries which manufacture poisonous gas, and in the matter of missiles and jet fighters they are supplying Jordan.

The Foreign Minister was replying to a motion for the agenda by Democratic Front for Peace and Equality MK Meir Wilner on what Wilner termed the danger posed to Israel by its Jericho II missile.

Nevertheless, said Peres, Israel did not consider the Soviets to be

enemies, nor did Israel possess any weapons that threatened the Soviet Union, despite reports to the contrary from Moscow.

Israel welcomed the Soviet endorsement of the zero-zero nuclear option, said the foreign minister. Jerusalem also welcomed the U.S. response to the Soviet proposal.

Israel would do all in its power to encourage de-escalation, Peres vowed, for in the final analysis, the solution to the danger posed by nuclear arms, was political, rather than technical.

Israel, said Peres, had been pushed into arming for defence, in response to physical, political and military threats.

The weaker those threats become — and the Soviets can weaken them —

the better it will be for all, said Peres. Meanwhile, Peres reiterated that Israel would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the region.

The motion was removed from the House agenda.

On Tuesday night, Moscow Radio again warned Israel against developing a nuclear missile, saying it was a threat to all Arab capitals and could reach the borders of the Soviet Union.

The warning, on the Hebrew-language broadcast, was the fourth in less than a week.

"The Soviet Union calls upon Israel not to oppose the Soviet peace initiatives including the elimination of medium-range missiles in Asia," the broadcast said.

# Thatcher pushes for peace parley

By BENNY MORRIS  
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has written a number of Arab heads of state urging them to move forward on the convening of an international Middle East peace conference.

Thatcher said this in a letter to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday, a document largely devoted to reporting on her recent talks in Washington with the heads of the Reagan administration.

Thatcher wrote that she had made efforts to persuade the Americans to come out publicly and unequivocally in support of the international conference.

In a separate four-page letter sent the same day to Prime Minister Shamir, she urged the Likud leader "to explore in a constructive spirit the possible opening for peace."

In her letter to Shamir, she wrote that "the prospect of Soviet participation" in the Middle East peace process offered "a unique opportunity" to help open the gates to Soviet Jewish emigration. Thatcher repeated a statement she had made after her meeting with President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz in the White House: "We discussed the prospects for peace in the Middle East. And I use words we both formally endorsed, we agreed that direct negotiations between the parties are the only practical way to proceed. We explored how an international conference might contribute to bringing about such negotiations."

Thatcher said she believed an arrangement between the prospective participants to the conference about the conditions and nature of the conference, on the basis of Peres' enunciated ground-rules. Thatcher added that she and Reagan had "committed ourselves to a new effort to help find a way forward."

The Prime Minister's Office yesterday officially declined all comment on Thatcher's letter, and it is unclear whether Shamir intends to respond.

David Horowitz adds from London: Thatcher's efforts to arrange an international Middle East peace conference will not be confined to sending private letters to various Israeli and Arab leaders. Whitehall sources told The Jerusalem Post last night.

A Downing Street spokesman confirmed that Thatcher sent letters to Middle East leaders on her return from Washington earlier this month, urging them to take advantage of the current favourable international political climate to prepare for a peace conference.

"She will not give up. She will keep on talking and writing — she is anxious to see some progress towards a settlement," the spokesman said.

"Family honour" behind Gaza murder

# Woman slain on 3rd attempt

By BRADLEY BURSTON  
For The Jerusalem Post

GAZA. — The brother of a 25-year-old woman who narrowly survived two recent murder attempts, apparently at the hands of close relatives, yesterday confessed to having killed his sister after her release from hospital earlier this week.

Ten days ago, the woman, Fat'at Ramadan Hala of the Sajiya refugee camp here, was hospitalized with multiple neck wounds after a man attacked her with a dagger. Shortly after the attack, her uncle confessed to police investigators, stating that the woman had damaged the family honour.

The following day, as the woman's mother visited her in Gaza's Shifa Hospital, three masked men entered the room and allegedly attacked them with knives. The woman's mother screamed for help, and the men fled, only to be arrested for attempted murder hours later. The three, cousins of the woman, have also confessed, police said yesterday.

Hala was released from hospital on Sunday, and taken to her home. According to the brother's account, on Monday evening, he suggested to his sister that they take a walk. As they passed a large cemetery, the brother allegedly produced a pickaxe and beat Hala to death with it. Police found the tool nearby. Hala, who was married, was accused by her family of having an affair.

Hill said that since Moriah lacked

such a conference, she emphasized in her letter to Shamir, would clearly "not have the right to impose solutions or to veto agreements reached by the parties."

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Hill said that since Moriah lacked

sufficient resources to fund the project entirely, it would seek additional financing by outside investors. He wrote that aside from Freij's blessing, he would also seek the "blessing and possibly some form of participation in the project" from both the U.S. and Jordan. Hill proposed establishing an advisory committee of community leaders in the Bethlehem area to advise Moriah on "proper policy" in the West Bank.

"I recognize that this project will be difficult to accomplish without a major miracle of God," he concluded.

MURPHY

(Continued from Page One)

The delegation is significant for the Soviets.

On the convening of an international peace conference, Murphy sounded upbeat: "There has been an encouraging convergence of views on the particulars of such a conference, although many questions remain unresolved, in particular the role of the Soviet Union and representation of the Palestinians."

On the West Bank, Murphy said, "Both the Israeli authorities and the Palestinians need to exercise great care and responsibility to prevent confrontation and violence, which undermine the atmosphere needed for reconciliation."

Murphy said that there has been no evidence of Syrian involvement in terrorism for over a year, since the aborted effort to explode an El Al airliner at London's Heathrow Airport, in April 1986.

Murphy, a former envoy to Damascus, said that economic sanc-

tions against Syria have not been lifted. "No decision has been made on the timing" of the return of the U.S. ambassador to Damascus, he added.

An administration source said that earlier this month President Reagan agreed to send a special envoy to Syria only after it was publicly stated that Abu Nidal's offices were being closed in Damascus.

Murphy stopped short of saying that the State Department opposed a proposed congressional measure to close the information offices of the PLO in Washington and New York. Murphy said he had "strong reservations" about the bill.

Correction

A Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday said that Shabtai Kalmanovitch, arrested recently in London, is not and has never been an "Israeli diplomat" as he was described in a report in The Jerusalem Post on Tuesday.

# Caesarea dig must continue, says Navon

Jerusalem Post Staff

Education and Culture Minister Yitzhak Navon yesterday decided to recommend that the archeological dig at Caesarea resume despite the ultra-Orthodox pressure that brought it to a halt.

"This is a scientific and national project of the highest priority and it's impossible to allow it to stop," Navon told Israel Radio. He denied the ultra-Orthodox claims that there is a Jewish cemetery at the site.

Last week, New Jersey's Drew University which conducted the dig, ordered it stopped following requests from American rabbis.

In Israel, the Atra Kadisha group held 10 days of protests against the dig, after a child reportedly found bones near the site.

But the Antiquities Department said there was no Jewish cemetery at the site, called Field C, though there is a burial ground one kilometre to the east. Archeologists had pointed out earlier that Jews would not have been buried in Caesarea at all, because it was not considered part of the ancient Land of Israel.

"Had there been a cemetery, we would have taken definite steps to ensure no Jewish graves were violated," Navon said yesterday.

He said he would recommend that the university authorize continuation of the dig. He added that the Antiquities Department would advise the archeologists on any remaining sensitive issues.

# Moshe Levy to study in England

Post Defence Reporter

Former IDF chief of general staff Moshe Levy will study in England for a year, following concern that he would be subpoenaed by the American authorities for his role in the Pollard affair if he studied in the U.S. as originally planned.

Levy and other senior military figures, including former Air Force chief Amos Lapidot, have been warned that they could be questioned on their knowledge of the case in which an American Jew, Jonathan Jay Pollard, passed U.S. military secrets to Israel.

Levy and his family will reportedly leave for England next month as will former deputy chief of staff Aluf Amir Drori.

# Petrol strike seems off

By KEN SCHACHTER  
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. — A threatened nationwide petrol station strike appeared to have been averted last night following negotiations between the station owners and Energy Minister Moshe Shahal.

After a two-hour session at the ministry's offices here, leaders of the Association of Petrol Station Owners said they would call a meeting this morning and recommend that members call off the 48-hour strike that was to start at 6 a.m. tomorrow.

Our beloved father

RALPH J. GRANT

Hallandale, Florida

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Children, Murray, Marilyn and Jay

Grandchildren, Paul, Lisa, Kelly and Todd

Great-grandchildren, Phillip, Hannah and Nathaniel

Shiva at 630 Layne Blvd., Hallandale, FLA 33009.

To

MURRAY GRANT

Deepest sympathy in your grief, on the death of your

Father

Management and Staff

Koortrade Ltd.



Eight handicapped army veterans were briefly detained by police yesterday after they burned tires, blocked traffic, and began a hunger-strike near the prime minister's house in Rehavia. The men say that the Defence Ministry has failed to provide them with the financial compensation and social services they require and has treated them in a callous and bureaucratic manner. One of the veterans, Noah Yitzhaki, said that the Defence Ministry has restricted him to only NIS 700 a month disability income, a sum with which he must support his wife and four children. The veterans were released on condition that they would not repeat the fire burning. They vowed to continue their hunger strike. (Text by Andy Court, Photo by Dan Landau)

# Fire sweeps forests outside of Jerusalem

By BERNARD JOSEPHS  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Police forensic experts and fire brigade officials will today launch an investigation into three huge fires that swept through forests west of Jerusalem yesterday. A suspected arsonist was arrested yesterday evening, police said.

Last night, fire fighters were still out in force as the flames that demolished over 1,000 dunams of woods were brought under control.

Forestry officials said yesterday evening they believed as many as 80,000 trees, both planted and natural, were destroyed, as flames up to 20 metres high roared through forests at Kesalon, Kiryat Anavim and the Nahal Sorek Nature Reserve. They stressed that the full extent of the damage would not be known until later this week.

All three fires started within a few hours of each other and Jewish National Fund experts suspect that they may have been started deliberately. "We know they were started by people. What we are not sure of is whether they were the results of accidents or deliberate arson," said Nathan Sass, manager of the JNF's central region.

By last night the fires at Kiryat Anavim and at Kesalon were under control but fire fighters armed with beaters and hoses were still stamping out brush fires.

JNF spokesman David Angel said that only the Beit Shemesh fire brigade had been able to join the battle. Appeals for help had been sent to fire stations as far afield as Rehovot and Ramla, as well as to Jerusalem.

"It was quite a close call," said one of the kibbutz volunteers, his face streaked with sweat and soot.

At neighbouring Ma'ale Hahamisha, swimmers were ordered out of the pool and kibbutz members manned hoses and wielded fire beaters as the smoke and flames threatened to penetrate the kibbutz living area. There, too, the guest house was close to the scene of the blaze and only hours of efforts by members and fire brigade men, and overflights by planes that sprayed the area with water halted the advance.

The cost of the fires, both financial, and in terms of damage to the environment would be enormous, he said.

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# Wage talks collapse

By JEFF BLACK  
For The Jerusalem Post

The public sector wage negotiations broke down yesterday with trade union leaders saying that there was not enough progress to ensure resumption of the talks today, as originally planned.

Instead, a "summit meeting" involving Finance Minister Moshe Nisim and Histadrut secretary-general Yisrael Kessar will be convened in the near future to try and bridge the gaps between the Histadrut and Treasury positions.

At yesterday's meeting, the Treasury's chief wage negotiator, Hillel Duda'i, offered the unions a return to the salary level of July 1985 in return for a two-year agreement.

This, according to Histadrut trade union department head Haim Haberfeld, works out to around 5.5 per cent pay increase over two years.

This increase, noted Haberfeld, is more than the Treasury has offered before but is not enough to persuade the Histadrut to sign a two-year agreement.

Haberfeld said that it was impossible to hold serious negotiations on such a figure. He described the decision not to resume the talks today as "a time-out to allow both sides to find other solutions."

Duda'i maintained there was no possibility of any wage rise in return for a one-year agreement. He said that the Histadrut has to agree to a two-year deal in order to get any increase over and above that which the Treasury intends to grant low-salary wage-earners and public sector pensioners.

Duda'i said that the Treasury had gone some way to meet the Histadrut's demands by



## 15 die in renewed riots

## Gandhi signs pact to end four years of Sri Lanka war

COLOMBO (Reuters). — Fifteen people died in riots and protests across Sri Lanka yesterday as President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed a controversial pact designed to end the island's four years of ethnic conflict.

Gandhi, at a joint news conference after the signing, praised the 80-year-old Sri Lankan leader's "tremendous courage and statesmanship" in pushing through the accord.

But Jayewardene blamed his own lack of intelligence for not accepting it before the start of the conflict, which has cost the lives of 6,000 of his people.

Residents and hospital doctors said 15 people were killed in a second day of rioting, most of it around Colombo, by members of the majority Sinhalese community opposed to the pact.

The agreement included a provision for India to send a peacekeeping force to the island to enforce its terms and impose the peace if necessary.

At the news conference Jayewardene said he would send legislation to Parliament to implement it and would dissolve the House and call elections if the MPs, most of whom are Sinhalese, rejected the measures.

Asked why he had not accepted the accord at the start of the Tamil revolt, Jayewardene replied slowly and deliberately: "Because of my own lack of intelligence."

The entire island was under 24-hour curfew for Gandhi's brief visit. He is due to fly back to New Delhi this morning.

Streets in Central Colombo were deserted but for military patrols with orders to shoot on sight.

In the suburbs, police fired shots and helicopters dropped tear gas canisters to disperse some 15,000 protesters trying to march on the Central District from several different suburbs.

Several buildings and many cars and buses were burned in a repetition of Tuesday's violence in which 22 people were killed and 120 injured. Witnesses said the overseas school attended by children of diplo-

mats and foreigners was gutted by fire.

The Indo-Sri Lankan agreement provides for a ceasefire within 48 hours between government troops and the Tamil guerrillas fighting for a homeland for their minority community in the north and east of the island.

It says the rebels must surrender their arms within 72 hours of the ceasefire taking effect. The surrender will be supervised by Indian and Sri Lankan Red Cross officials.

After that, the government troops will pull back from the frontlines, abandoning parts of the predominantly Tamil Jaffna Peninsula in the north which they captured in a May offensive, and return to barracks.

The dominant rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which controls most of Jaffna has yet to accept the pact. But the accord provides for Indian troops to be sent to enforce it if Jayewardene asks Gandhi for help.

However, Gandhi told the news conference he expected the Tigers to cooperate. "I feel they will come along with us in implementing this agreement," he said.

Gandhi is to have further talks with Tigers leader Velupillai Prabhakaran when he returns to Delhi today. He said the guerrilla chief was worried about the safety of his men once they disarmed.

The pact has also divided Jayewardene's government amid Sinhalese fears that it means a *de facto* division of the island. Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa and his agriculture minister boycotted Gandhi's visit in protest.

It provides for the merger of the northern and eastern provinces in a semi-autonomous Tamil administration with a chief minister and governor, subject to eventual approval in a referendum in the eastern province where Tamils, Moslems and Sinhalese are equally balanced.

India will stop Tamil rebels, currently based in its southern state of Tamil Nadu, from using its soil for activities prejudicing Sri Lanka's security and Jayewardene will free prisoners held under anti-terrorist laws.



Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (left) and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene during their press conference after they signed a peace accord in Colombo yesterday. (Reuters telephoto)

## New Italian gov't after 5-month crisis

ROME (Reuters). — After five months of political confusion in Italy, a new five-party government took office yesterday headed by Christian Democrat Giovanni Goria, 43, the country's youngest prime minister since World War II.

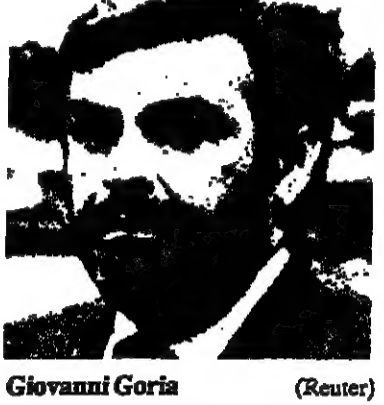
The 30-member cabinet of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals was sworn in by President Francesco Cossiga and is expected to win votes of confidence in both houses of parliament by next week.

The bearded Goria, treasury minister for the last five years, smiled and joked with reporters after the ceremony, clearly relieved to have succeeded. His two-week effort to form a government was unexpectedly delayed by last-minute bargaining over ministries by the Social Democrat Party last night.

The swearing-in ended a five-month power vacuum which began on March 3 when a similar coalition led by Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi was brought down by a fierce power struggle between his party and the majority Christian Democrats.

The dispute led to general elections six weeks ago. Craxi led two identical coalitions for three-and-a-half years, but political analysts believe Goria's government is unlikely to restore such stability.

Goria was nominated by Cossiga to circumvent the Christian



Giovanni Goria (Reuters)

## 16 Cypriots die of heat, cooler now in Greece

NICOSIA. — Sixteen people have died in Cyprus in a heatwave which has scorched southern Europe for the past few days, official sources said yesterday.

Temperatures have risen to 45 degrees Celsius in the island's central plain.

With patients jamming first aid centres, the government advised people to avoid the sun and strenuous exercise and to drink plenty of water. By agreement between the Labour Ministry, employers and unions, construction work in the Nicosia area has been limited to five hours a day while the heatwave lasts.

Meanwhile, a 10-day heatwave, blamed for as many as 1,000 deaths in Greece, eased yesterday with temperatures dropping dramatically.

The Athens weather office predicted temperatures of up to 35 degrees yesterday — well below 44 on Monday.

Burying the dead still posed a problem for the authorities. Newspapers reported that 285 corpses still awaited burial in seven cemeteries in the Athens area where bulldozers were used in some cases to open up new graves in pathways for lack of space in graveyards.

To cope with the many funerals, priests were conducting burial services in pairs, sometimes outside the church because of the stench of corpses, witnesses said. Cemeteries took on extra workers wearing surgical masks to help with the interments.

In Sondrio, Italy, 25 people were feared dead yesterday and two were seriously injured after a landslide engulfed three mountain villages and blocked a river on Tuesday near the Italian-Swiss border, officials said.

The body of a woman had been recovered, three Belgians were found, apparently unharmed, and 24 other people were still missing, police said.

The landslide dammed up a river and formed a 1.8-kilometre wide lake in which the water level was rising by 20 cm. an hour and had already reached 50 metres.

Troops shepherded around 1,000 villagers from their homes' lower down the valley, but experts said the danger was less imminent than feared in the first few hours after the disaster. (Reuters, AFP)

## French naval force to set sail for Persian Gulf today

PARIS. — A French aircraft carrier and three escort ships will put to sea by midday today after being placed on alert for possible duty in the Gulf war zone, the Defence Ministry said.

The ministry had earlier announced that the task force, crewed by 3,000 men, would sail "on a mission to protect French interests in the Mediterranean and Indian ocean."

France, citing escalating tension in the Middle East, had put the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau*, the guided-missile destroyers *Duquesne* and *Suffren* and the supply ship *Meuse* on alert over the weekend.

Meanwhile, strong winds and high seas in the Gulf delayed loading of the mine-damaged Kuwaiti tanker *Bridgeton* yesterday and added to the problems of the U.S. task force waiting to escort it back down the waterway.

Iran continued a barrage of threats against the U.S., which has pledged to continue escorts protecting reflagged Kuwaiti shipping from Iranian attack in the Gulf and to take steps to clear mines from their path.

Iran threatened to retaliate against any U.S. attack by hitting U.S. facilities all over the world. Revolutionary Guards Minister Mohsen Rafiq-Dust said in an interview with a Japanese news service yesterday.

"I say here and now that if the U.S. attacks Iran's harbours or bases, we will attack American political, military and economic facilities all over the world," he said.

In Washington, a top U.S. official said yesterday Washington would press on with its convoys of re-registered Kuwaiti ships through the Gulf despite the embarrassment of the first ship hitting a mine.

Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East Richard Murphy said nine more Kuwaiti tankers

would be put under the American flag within the next six weeks and then five or six convoys a month would be escorted through the Gulf.

Murphy faced harsh questioning from Democrats on a Congressional committee to which he was testifying over why the Supertanker *Bridgeton* was hit by a mine on the first escort of former Kuwaiti ships up the Gulf last week.

Democratic Congressman Robert Torricelli of New Jersey was mainly angry at President Reagan. "As a commander-in-chief (Reagan) is a colossal failure of historic proportions. I am so tired of being embarrassed. For a president who was going to make America proud again, he has done nothing but embarrass me," he said.

Congressional anger also erupted Tuesday over Kuwait's apparent reluctance to help protect U.S. tankers. One lawmaker called the situation "absolutely intolerable."

The comments came as a State Department official told Congress that the U.S. still has not received approval from Kuwait to base anti-mine equipment in the Gulf nation to protect American tankers.

In other developments, the Franco-Iranian diplomatic crisis worsened when Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati threatened that all French diplomats in Tehran would be put on trial if French authorities did not waive a summons for an Iranian embassy official in Paris.

The French Foreign Ministry issued a strong rejection of the Minister's statement, made in Geneva, that Iranian embassy interpreter Vahid Gordji had an Iranian service passport and was covered by article 37 of the Vienna convention which conferred him diplomatic immunity. (Reuters, AP, AFP)

## Working and walking keep Khomeini fit

BONN (AFP). — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is "in very good health" and stays that way through hard work and long daily walks, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said in an article published here today.

In an interview with the West German weekly *Stern*, Velayati said the Iranian leader strolled around the garden of his Tehran home and walked for several miles a day to keep himself fit.

Commenting on his country's fundamentalist revolution, the Foreign Minister said Iran had become the most politically independent country in the third world.

## Druse chief Jumblatt sees pro-Iran officials

BAALBECK (Reuters). — Lebanese Druse leader, Walid Jumblatt met pro-Iranian officials in their north-eastern stronghold of Baalbeck after pledging to support Iran against the French navy, Moslem fundamentalist sources said yesterday.

Jumblatt refused comment after a one-hour meeting on Tuesday night with Sheikh Subhi Tufaili of Hizbullah (Party of God), and Hussein Mousawi of the Amal.

It was Jumblatt's first reported meeting with Tufaili who, like Mousawi, is a frequent visitor to Tehran and collaborates with hundreds of Iranian revolutionary guards based in Baalbeck.

## 'Burmese massacring Karens'

LONDON (AFP). — Burmese troops are massacring and mutilating members of the country's minority Karen population "almost as a matter of state policy," the Anti-Slavery Society, the world's oldest human rights organization, said here yesterday.

The Karens, who today number about eight million, have been fighting a guerrilla war against the Rangoon authorities in the southeast of the country since 1949.

In a statement, Lord Listowel, joint-president of the society, and a former secretary of state for Burma when the country was in British hands, called for an end to abuse of human rights against the Karens.

"resulting in a loss of life, destruction of property, and an influx of thousands of homeless refugees into Thailand."

According to the Anti-Slavery Society, an estimated 30,000 Karen refugees — men, women and children — are living now in Thailand in wretched conditions.

The society, based in London, quoted the example of a man arrested, tied up and forced to walk ahead of the Burmese troops as a human mine detector. The 57-year-old man trod on a mine which shattered his leg, and then was simply abandoned by the Burmese soldiers.

## West German admits inventing Holocaust rescue story

COLOGNE (Reuters). — A West German local politician has confessed that he invented his heroic claim to have rescued Jews from the Gestapo during World War II.

Mathias Niessen, a popular Cologne politician, captivated acquaintances for years with the tale of how, as a young pilot, he flew from occupied France to a camp near Cologne for the rescue bid.

His claim even won acclaim and an award from a grateful Israeli nation.

He told how he gave liquor to camp guards to get them drunk, cut through a barbed-wire fence and smuggled Jewish doctor Albert Grueneberg and his wife to freedom in stolen uniforms.

He claimed thereafter to have helped move the couple in from one hiding place to another to avoid a Gestapo manhunt.

Niessen, a 63-year-old Social Democrat, admitted to a Cologne court on Tuesday that his story, told and retold in city clubs and pubs in the 1970s, was a lie.

The Gruenebergs were dead and could not dispute it, and the yarn had simply mushroomed, with himself in the role of hero, to the point where it had a life of its own.

But the Cologne district prosecutor brought charges of making false statements against Niessen after serious questions about his story arose in a

1985 trial in which he testified about persecution of Jews in Cologne during the war.

In court, the prosecutor produced documents from the Gruenebergs' postwar reparations suit in which it was revealed that they went underground on their own and remained hidden until the arrival of American forces.

Niessen, 63, was ordered to pay a fine of 7,500 marks (\$4,000) to the Cologne Society for Jewish-Christian cooperation.

Niessen said he would give back to Israel the Yad Vashem medal he was awarded in 1981 when the Israelis believed he was a Righteous Gentile.

## Rich criminals, blood, cocaine — that's Colombia today

By BERND DEBUSMANN BOGOTA. — Take the world's richest criminals, add right-wing death squads and hired killers, stir in a lethal concoction of armed leftist forces, and simmer over the fire of political passions.

The result is Colombia, where the murder rate — at some 11,000 a year — is six times that of the U.S., and cocaine traffickers have so much money that they once offered to pay the country's entire \$13 billion foreign debt.

"The country is sinking into a swamp of blood and barbarity," former foreign minister Alfredo Vasquez told a recent human rights meeting here, adding that "private justice" had replaced rule of law.

Fighting between the army and armed leftists has surged in recent months, with 27 soldiers killed in a single ambush on June 16, but after 30 years of on-off warfare, such clashes have become commonplace. Their roots are in La Violencia, a prolonged civil war which left more

than 200,000 dead before ending in the 1950s.

What worries Colombians more than the routine of rebel attack and army pursuit are the hundreds of civilians targeted out for death by other civilians who live by the law of the gun.

"In Colombia, you have all sorts of violence," said Gilberto Lancheros, vice-president of the National Association of Judiciary Employees. "Violence between the army and the guerrillas, violence from the cocaine traffickers, violence from hired killers, violence from para-military groups. Plus, of course, common crime."

More than 400 members or sympathisers of the leftist Patriotic Union (UP) have been assassinated in the past two years. Contract murders have claimed the lives of judges, journalists, police officers, and even a justice minister opposed to Colombian cocaine kings. Self-style "Justice Groups" have gunned down scores of prostitutes, homosexuals, beggars and vagrants.

Like all his predecessors, Liberal Virgilio Barco, who became president in 1986, promised to change the

conditions on which his country's violence feeds. So far, he has made little headway.

On the cocaine front, Colombia's record has been mixed.

In a raid on a country estate near the city of Medellin on February 4, narcotics police arrested Carlos Lehder, alleged to be one of the handful of men who turned Colombia into the world's biggest cocaine producer over the past decade. Lehder was flown to Florida within hours under a 1979 U.S.-Colombian Extradition Treaty.

There has been a string of assassinations ascribed to the cocaine lobby. The list of victims in the past year included a Supreme Court judge, a High Court judge, a former chief of the anti-narcotics police, the security chief of the state-owned airline, Avianca, and two journalists who had led demands for tough action against drug traffickers.

In January, they showed the reach of their power: Former justice minister Enrique Parejo was seriously wounded in Budapest. Parejo, a prominent anti-drug campaigner, had been made ambassador to Hun-

gary after threats to his life in Colombia.

"They (the traffickers) have shown there is no power in the land that can protect you," said Judge Lancheros. "The state cannot protect you; no one can."

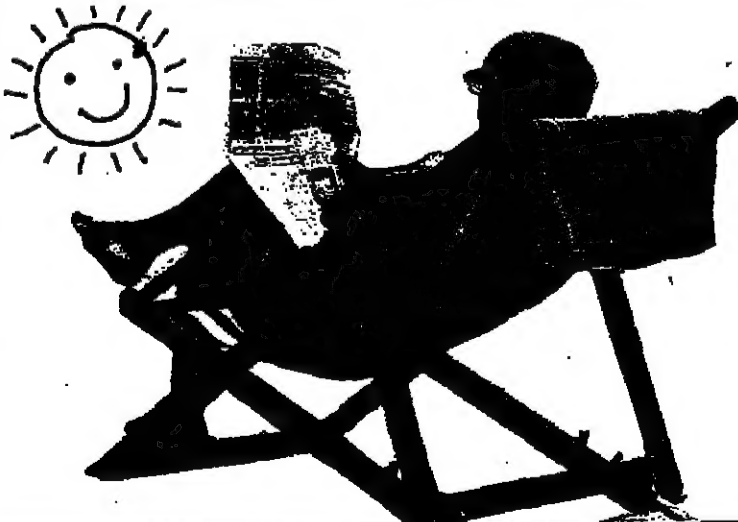
According to Lancheros, around 70 judges, magistrates and other have been murdered in the past four years for pursuing cases against big drug traffickers.

Several of the traffickers' victims were outspoken proponents of the U.S.-Colombian Extradition Treaty, an instrument so feared by cocaine bosses that in 1984 they formally offered to pay Colombia's foreign debt in return for abolition of the pact.

The treaty was suspended on a technicality and declared unconstitutional on June 12, nullifying extradition orders for 70 Colombians wanted in the U.S.

Five weeks after the treaty was suspended, the Colombian government announced it would seek revisions of its terms. Officials deny suggestions that fear was one of the motives for the decision. (Reuters)

## For some of Israel's elderly, a vacation is an impossible luxury.



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at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. TODAY.  
Discussion follows on:  
"Lobbying the Foreign Media in Israel."  
Further information: Tel. 02-931893.

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**החורף**  
**עיתון לאנשים חושבים**  
In This Weekend's Ha'aretz

**The Dubek Management Minutes**  
Ryal Ehrlich

**Peres's Zero Hour**  
Yoel Marcus

**Blocked Pass in India**  
Michael Karnon

**Rapid Wear of Compact Disks**  
Arye Levi

Ze'ev Schiff on "Yaricho 2" as a negotiating point • A. Schweitzer on a journey to Japan • Dan Margalit on the Madrid Committee Report • Roman Frisner on the Moshavim — between aid and collapse • Shaul Tzedaka on Geoffrey Archer • Political Sources/Akiva Rikar • Territories and People/Uri Nir • American Connection/Uri Barai • Croakings/Ze'ev Tefet • Strong Rose/Hebrew Strasser, Yehuda Shalom and Yonatan Sherman • The week's TV/Hebrew Sources.

02-935-0022







# Jewish devotion

There and then/Sraya Shapiro

THEY MADE Yosef Avidar a Distinguished Citizen of Jerusalem — an honour he accepted with humility. He never courted recognition for doing what he felt was his duty. He is one of those happy men who see what they want to achieve and then think clearly what they need to do to reach that goal. Blue-eyed and erect, he seems never to lose his bearings in the most trying circumstances.

His aim — a Jewish State with Jewish tenets, and, of course, the physical means to protect it. He may not spell it out in so many words, but that's what his whole life has been devoted to.

When he settled in Jerusalem in 1925, he was already mature, though only 19 years old. There are no children where revolutions rage. He knew that self-defence is the only way to deal with killers whose only common trait is Jew-baiting. No wonder Yosef Rochel (as he was then known) found his way quickly to the top of the Hagana, the Jewish self-defence organization.

For a living, he worked on building sites. "I am proud of being a building worker. I only stopped when an injury prevented me from climbing scaffolding." (The injury occurred when Avidar, years later, was handling explosives for the Hagana.) "My 16-year-old grandson chose to work on buildings during summer vacation. I am proud of him."

AVIDAR's leadership saved the Jewish quarter in Jerusalem's Old City in the week-long onslaught of Arab gangs in 1929. But a more formidable test was in store for him two years later — this time against the encroachments on Hagana leadership coming from the Hagana commander of Jerusalem, Avraham Tehomi. The weird story is described in detail in *Sefer Toldot Ha-Hagana*.

Avidar suspected Tehomi of planning a takeover from the Histadrut-dominated leadership. To prove his point, Avidar ordered Tehomi's let-



Proud of being a building worker — Yosef Avidar. (Shapiro)

ters to Elihu Ben-Horin, a zealous Revisionist who was in the U.S. allegedly collecting money for the rebellious group, intercepted. It seems that the Hagana chief, Elihu Golomb, was not eager to cause a rift, though he cold-shouldered Tehomi.

A committee of investigation, headed by Izhak Ben-Zvi, refused to consider the evidence but suspended Avidar for two years because he defied Tehomi's order to transfer arms from the Old City to a cache controlled by Tehomi's men. Avidar did not attend the "trial" — there was no point in it, he explained. Ben-Zvi and the others knew perfectly well what Tehomi was up to, but chose to turn a blind eye to it.

Several months later, however, Avidar was vindicated. Tehomi instructed his followers not to return some weapons to Hagana caches. The arms had been taken out as a precaution in case of Arab riots after the Nebi Musa celebrations.

Ben-Zvi, on behalf of the Va'ad Leumi, and Gershon Agromsky, for the Zionist Organization, investigated the matter and ordered Tehomi to comply with Hagana orders.

The crisis continued for a long time and negotiations were heated and bitter. Finally, Tehomi handed the weapons back, "in order to secede with clean hands."

In a letter to the Va'ad Leumi, Tehomi and his comrades declared their loyalty to the ideals of the organization "to which we are always ready to devote our lives." Nevertheless, they left. The ugly battles in today's Knesset between the main coalition partners are faint echoes of what the schism did to the yishuv for half a century.

AVIDAR never forgave the Revisionists for causing the schism. He conceived of the Histadrut as a nation-building framework, and the Hagana as its national service. Leaving the national service was little better than treason.

Avidar's efforts in the Hagana were mainly directed toward structuring it as the national defence establishment. He is very proud of the fact that the Israel Defence Forces adopted most of the principles elaborated by the Hagana, when the IDF came into being.

Avidar elegantly keeps mum about facts he does not care to divulge. He was acting chief of general staff when the notorious "mishap" occurred, involving then minister of defence Pinhas Lavon. But Avidar never said in public what he knew of the affair. "And there is no reason to refer to it now," he smiles again.

Avidar is a most discerning observer of the Soviet scene. He was ambassador in Moscow from spring of 1955 to autumn of 1958, and wrote *Party and Army in the Soviet Union* when Khrushchev was trying to shake up the Russian bureaucracy.

"Khrushchev failed, he moved too quickly. Gorbachev is more wary. But one can never know with the ultra-conservative Russians."

But will Gorbachev be able to let Jews out? "I don't know. Jews, and the Middle East, do not seem to be a top priority for the Soviets just now."

## Gathering of the songbirds

Negev Notebook/Bradley Burston

IN THE YEAR 1787, when an obscure clerk of the Austro-Hungarian empire was asked to supply a surname for members of a musically-inclined Jewish family, he had little idea that exactly two centuries later, the heirs of his nomenclature acumen would gather to celebrate the fact in a far-off city called Tel Aviv.

Sure enough, though the name of the Austrian *apparatnik* has long been lost to history, some five dozen members of the family clerk chose to name after a songbird (Amsel) held an unprecedented reunion this month, for many, their first opportunity ever to meet other Amsels face to face.

"When I was growing up, I was told that the Amsels were a very small family, that all of my (extended) family in Europe was killed in the Holocaust, and that all Amsels were related," reunion organizer Melody Amsel Gross recalled last week in her Beersheba home.

Years later, already a concert flautist, music instructor, and mother of two, the U.S.-born Gross came across an item in *The Jerusalem Post* mentioning a free subscription awarded to a woman named Amsel from Petah Tikva. The notice was one of several clues Gross had found suggesting that she had family she'd never met, but the subscription item was somehow different. It appeared on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day, and Gross, intrigued and moved, found the woman's number in the telephone directory.

"I called her up and asked her where she was from, and she answered, 'Well, we're a very small family from the Carpathian Mountains in Czechoslovakia (birthplace of Gross's grandfather), but nobody's left, and all Amsels are related.'"

"Then I got really curious. I began contacting Amsels in other places,



and every person that I spoke to said that we're a very small family, and that all Amsels are related. That's what everyone was told as a child."

Though Gross's parents in the U.S. joined the step-by-step detective work with vigour, the initial enthusiasm of many a new-found cousin was, as it were, firmly under control. "When we'd approach someone, either on the phone or by letter, they'd immediately get suspicious," observes Milton Amsel, Gross's father. "They thought we were looking for some money."

"We joined the Jewish Genealogy Society in Washington D.C.," Amsel continues, "and we got pointers on these kinds of things."

In the process of following this leads over five continents, after discovering Amsel cantors, professional musicians, choral vocalists, and shower-stall coloraturas as far away as Australia, Melody Amsel Gross was not long in discerning an additional family common denominator: a certain tendency to want to be left alone.

"Members of my family are self-sufficient, perhaps a bit closed. We tend not to seek out contact with

other people. If everyone goes to concerts, we stay home. If everybody goes to picnic, we stay home. I began to realize that everyone else in the (extended) family was just like us." She laughs. "It was very comforting in a way."

But the lack of gregariousness, though it offers a reasonable explanation for decades of inter-Amsel isolation, has seen a steady thaw in recent years. "After I began finding and meeting cousins in various places, they themselves began contacting one another, phoning each other, getting together, and things took on a momentum of their own."

AFTER THE project was well underway, a memorial service was held in Mt. Zion's Chamber of the Holocaust during which Gross and her parents said *kaddish* for family members killed during the war. After the service, an elderly man studied Milton Amsel's features and pointed his finger at him. "Amsel!" cried the older man, at once certain of the family resemblance. "Amsel!"

Since then, Melody Amsel Gross, aided by her parents in Virginia and by a spreading polyglot latticework of musical kin around the globe, has continued doggedly to unearth the roots and tend the branches of a family tree now bearing hundreds of Amsels, Amsels, and others.

Gross has paid particular attention to determining the fate of family members lost in the Holocaust. Scouring lists compiled by research institutes in Israel, Germany, Austria, and elsewhere, she has gained access to priceless detailed information no living relative could have supplied.

Another focus of Gross's efforts has been tracing the origins, permutations, and peregrinations of family names. Through her work, a number of cousins have found to their proud surprise namesakes in other branches. Melody Amsel Gross's only brother David, for example, discovered not only that he was not the last of the Amsels, but that he was one of a number of David Amsels scattered far and wide.

The culmination of Gross's years of work, and the ultimate defiance of traditional Amsel isolationism, was the reunion held this month. Moreover, as these gatherings go, the Amsels gathered virtually on the spur of the moment. Earlier this year, an octogenarian Amsel aunt in Hungary suggested that if the family could be brought together in Israel, she would come for a visit.

And come together they did, though it may take until the next reunion, two years from now, to sort out the maze of tangled roots and intertwined branches represented.

Among the branches of the family wings is an independent line that extends 187 years into the past, back nearly to the nameless clerk who, like the empire that once forced a family of singers to take a surname, is long since barely a memory. Melody Amsel Gross has yet to tie the line to the larger family tree, but is optimistic that the missing connections will be found. After all, she smiles, though the family is small, all Amsels are related.

## FEDERATION CUP

### Seeds win openers

VANCOUVER. (Reuters) — Chris Evert and Pam Shriver led the cup-holding U.S. team into the second round of the 25th Federation Cup International Women's Team Tennis Championship with straight-sets victories over two young Japanese players.

This means that the U.S. won their opening tie, although the doubles still have to be played.

Bulgaria, Australia and Italy, seeded fourth, fifth and eighth, respectively, also clinched their first-round matches 2-0, with Australia the only seeded team to give up a set under brilliant sunshine on the hard courts of the Hollyburn Country Club.

Bulgaria, led by Manuela and Katerina Maleeva, did not lose a game in crushing Greece, Australia defeated Denmark, and Italy beat

Belgium. In other matches among unseeded teams in the 32-nation draw, Britain beat Chile 2-0, with Sara Gomer and Jo Durie both scoring straight-sets wins, and Spain beat Jamaica.

In Baastad, Sweden, Kent Carlsson, Stefan Edberg and Mats Wilander fresh from Sweden's weekend Davis Cup triumph against France, maintained winning ways to reach the second round of the Swedish Open men's singles.

In Washington D.C. American Bill Scanlon surprised 11th-seeded Jaime Yzaga of Peru, while Jimmy Connors advanced to the third round at the Grand Prix Tournament here.

The third-seeded Connors coasted past compatriot Kelly Jones 6-3, 6-4, but it took a 6-3, 0-6, 6-0 first-round effort from Scanlon to eliminate Yzaga.

## SCOREBOARD

CYCLING. — Irishman Stephen Roche, cycling his first race since winning the grueling 1987 Tour de France, finished third in the Stiphout professional race after Spanish winner Pedro Delgado.

Vietnam Dutch racer Joop Zoetemelk finished second at Stiphout, Netherlands.

SOCCER. — New signing Jürgen Wegmann

scored twice for Bayern Munich, who beat Hamburg 2-1 to become the first winners of the West German "Supercup," a new trophy contested by the league champions and cup winners.

Poland's Mirosław Okulewicz scored in the 39th minute to put cup holders Hamburg in front, but, after a shaky start, Bayern came back to equalize on the hour.

## BASEBALL

### Coaching box is a stage for Lasorda

NEW YORK (AP) — Tommy Lasorda is on a roll and his stage has been the third-base coaching box at Dodger Stadium.

Los Angeles had lost six straight games and were playing their worst baseball of the season when the Dodgers' manager decided to shake things up by moving in as the third-base coach.

Since that move, the Dodgers have not lost, and won their fourth straight game on Tuesday night, beating San Francisco 4-2 behind

Orel Hersher's fourth-hit pitching over eight innings.

Lasorda said he'd stay in there as long as the Dodgers keep winning.

"Why shouldn't I? My players want me to stay out there," Lasorda said. "I'm having a lot of fun and we've got a good thing going for us."

The Dodgers, perennial pennant contenders, have struggled the last two seasons and currently stand fourth in the National League West, eight games behind the first-place Cincinnati.

Mets 6, Cardinals 4  
Tim Lincecum singled with the bases loaded and none out in the eighth inning to put New York in the lead and send St. Louis to their fifth straight defeat.

## AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	40	40	.500	—
Detroit	38	42	.475	2
Toronto	39	41	.488	1
Minnesota	30	50	.375	9
Boston	46	34	.573	14
Baltimore	45	35	.563	15
Cleveland	35	45	.438	24½

## WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	35	47	.427	—
California	32	48	.400	2
Kansas City	31	50	.385	3½
Houston	49	30	.618	4½
Texas	49	30	.618	4½
Seattle	32	48	.400	6
Chicago	39	36	.520	13½

Tuesday's Games: New York 2, Kansas City 1; Cleveland 4, Baltimore 3 (10 innings); Detroit 3, Chicago 1 (Toronto 5, Boston 4; Milwaukee 9, Texas 2; California 9, Oakland 2; Seattle 4, Minnesota 1).

## NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST

	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	41	37	.526	—
Montreal	38	40	.488	3
New York	34	44	.438	7½
Chicago	32	47	.405	9½
Philadelphia	30	48	.385	11
Pittsburgh	45	33	.577	16½

## WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	35	47	.427	—
San Francisco	31	50	.385	2½
Houston	49	30	.618	3½
Los Angeles	45	34	.568	5
Atlanta	44	35	.558	6½
San Diego	36	44	.450	17

Tuesday's Games: Chicago 8, Montreal 3; Cincinnati 6, St. Louis 7; Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 2; Atlanta 6, Houston 1; New York 6, St. Louis 4; Los Angeles 4, San Francisco 2.

## ISRAELI CRICKET

Y. Satamka of Petah Tikva achieved the bowler's dream of taking a hat-trick in a match against Lod A. In all he took five wickets for 22, and, supported by N. Davidson with 3 for 36, was primarily responsible for Lod's meagre 122. Only B. David with 41 and S. David with 40 withstood the attack.

Petah Tikva passed this score for the loss of only four wickets. Day West played the bowling for 83 not out. Lod A 122, Petah Tikva 123 for 4.

## COUNTY CRICKET

LONDON (AFP) — Yorkshire and Northamptonshire tightened their stranglehold on the English County Championship with crushing wins on Tuesday.

England discard David Capel (four of 22) and Winston Davis (four for 51) dismissed Sussex for 117.

Leicestershire 131 and 124, Yorkshire 341 (M.D. Moore 84, R.J. Blakey 76). Yorkshire (23 points) beat Leicestershire (1 pt) by an innings and 86 runs.

Northamptonshire 208 (D.K. Standring 54, D.J. Capel 5 for 57) and 117, Nottinghamshire 201 for eight declared and 127 for five (R.J. Bailey 81 not out). Northamptonshire (22 pts) beat Nottinghamshire (2 pts) by 5 wickets.

Old Trafford: Nottinghamshire 248 (M. Standring 116, R.E. Hemmings 66, M. Westwood 5 for 42, and 318 for seven (C.E.B. Rice 99, P. Pollard 59). Lancashire 300 for five declared (N.H. Fairbrother 109 not out, G. Fowler 88, M. Watkinson 53). Lancashire (8 pts) and Nottinghamshire (8 pts) drew.

Portsmouth: Hampshire 205 (C.L. Smith 82) and 200 for eight declared. (C.C. Greenledge 51, J.K. Lever five for 59). Essex 184 and 123 for four (J.P. Stephenson 67 not out). Hampshire (6 pts) and Essex (5 pts) drew.

Worcestershire 308 (N.A. Filton 118, N.J. Pringle 74, N.V. Radford seven for 56) and 296 for six declared (P.N. Roebuck 135 not out, M.D. Crowe 185). Worcestershire (6 pts) and Derbyshire (15 pts) tied.

Lord's: Middlesex 303 for six declared and 131 (J.D. Carr 77, K.B.S. Jarvis five for 48). Kent 262 for four declared. (S.G. Hinks 112, M.R. Benson 97) and 173 for nine (N.G. Cowans four for 47). Kent (21 pts) beat Middlesex (5 pts) by 1 wicket.

Gloucestershire 288 (J.W. Lloyd 66, R.C. Russell 54, P. Balmbridge 53, M.W. Alleyne 51) and 278 (Lloyd 64, Alleyne 53, A.W. Stovell 51, Sharnock six for 80). Gloucestershire (14 pts) and Derbyshire (15 pts) tied.

	P	W	D	L	T	Pts.
Yorkshire	17	6	8	3	0	171
Nottingham	13	7	6	0	0	170
Lancashire	15	4	7	4	0	148
Yorks	14	6	6	1	0	148
Surrey	14	4	8	2	0	142
Hants	16	2	10	3	0	138
Derby	14	4	5	5	1	137
Leicesters	14	4	5	3	0	128
Worcesters	16	3	11	2	0	128
Essex	15	7	10	3	0	120
Kent	15	12	1	0	0	99
Somerset	15	9	4	0	0	97
Gloucesters	14	1	7	7	0	92
Warwick	14	1	9	4	0	81
Wiltshire	14	1	6	7	0	81
Sussex	14	1	8	5	0	75



## More records sink

FRESNO (AP) — Steven Bentley and Amy Shaw set American records in winning the finals of the 200m. breaststroke events at the U.S. Swimming Long Course National Championships.

Bentley sprinted on the last lap to finish in 2 minutes, 15.30 seconds, beating the record of 2:15.38 set by Steve Lundquist in 1983.

Shaw swam 2:30.77 in her preliminary race to break a mark of 2:31.15 set by Susan Rapp in the 1984 Olympics.

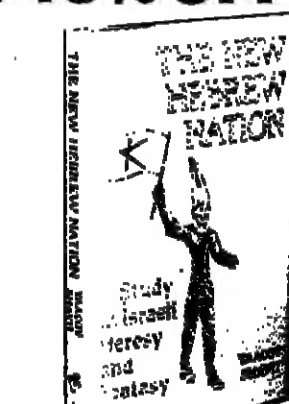
Janet Evans, a 15-year-old California schoolgirl, is shown above catching her breath after setting a world record here on Monday in the 800m. freestyle.

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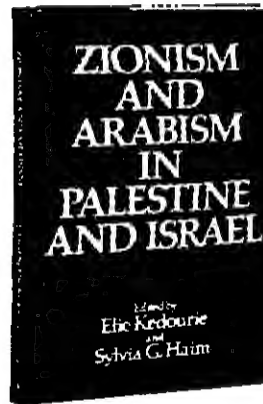
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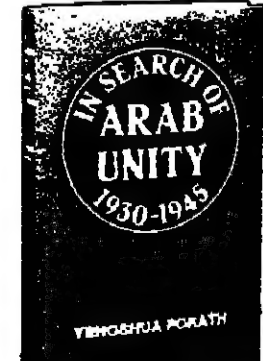
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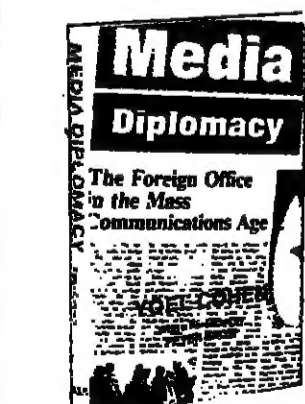
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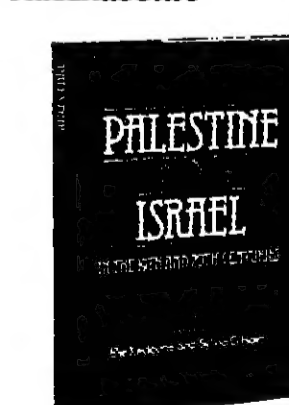
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## W.R. Grace's 'fairy tale phone call'

## Teva's optimistic look at Europe

By KEN SCHACHTER  
For The Jerusalem Post

PETAH TIKVA. — In the early 1980s, Teva Pharmaceuticals was looking for some corporate romance. Almost as if on cue, a "fairy tale" phone call arrived long-distance that rapidly changed the company's character from an Israeli industry leader to a player in the big-league U.S. market and gave impetus to the global vision of Teva executives.

Teva's joint venture in the U.S. may be only a year-and-a-half old, but these days the talk at company headquarters here already is of expansion on a new front: Europe.

By 1982, Teva had taken over Israel's number two pharmaceutical company, Ikapharm, and the company was listed on both the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and the U.S. over-the-counter market. Though the company had modest outposts in Europe and Africa, it had yet to make a dent in the major international markets.

At this point, Teva executives huddled with a leading U.S.-based pharmaceutical industry consultancy and devised what became known as the "billion-dollar theory." That theory holds that Teva was like an attractive young girl waiting for a date: all dressed up and nowhere to go. Based on the depth of research, number of product lines and number of countries to which it exports, Teva, by European standards, should be a billion dollar company. The only catch is, Teva is not in Europe. "We said, 'The only reason we're so small is because we're stuck in the Middle East,'" said Dan Suesskind, Teva's chief financial officer.

Then came what Suesskind calls the "fairy tale telephone call." W.R. Grace, the U.S. chemicals giant, was looking to diversify its business and an executive happened to read about Teva. Eli Hurvitz, Teva's chief executive officer, said Grace was interested in using the pharmaceutical business as a "window" into the health care field. Meantime, Teva was quick to see that their American suitor offered them a ticket into the much-coveted U.S. market.

To hear Teva executives talk, the alliance with Grace has become much more than a marriage of convenience. Hurvitz describes J. Peter Grace, chairman of W.R. Grace, as dynamic in the boardroom and yet disarmingly frank and cordial outside. "I've seen a lot of businessmen," Hurvitz said, "but I've never seen anyone like this." With more than 40 years on the job, Grace is

one of the most senior chief executives of any major U.S. company. To the U.S. public, Grace, 74, is probably best known as the chairman of the Grace Commission, formed in the early years of the Reagan presidency to recommend ways to streamline government.

In 1985, Grace and Teva created a U.S. holding company called TAG Pharmaceuticals Inc., started with capital of \$23 million, \$21.5 million from Grace and \$1.5 million from Teva. Although Grace put up most of the money, the two companies are 50-50 partners in TAG. Part of TAG's capital was used to acquire a Pennsylvania-based generic-drug firm called Lemmon on the last day of 1985.

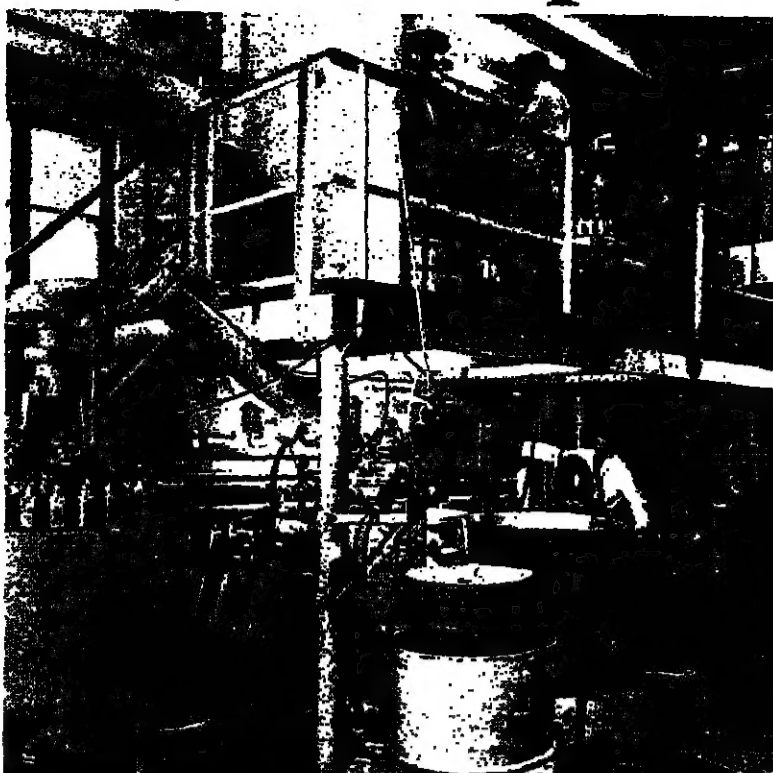
This is not to say that Grace's overtures were welcomed in all quarters. Koor, the industrial arm of the Histadrut, recognized that although it retained a 40 per cent stake in Teva, it was about to be usurped by Grace, which clearly would have a big say in Teva's U.S. operations and, in terms of financial clout, cast a big shadow, with 1986 sales totalling \$3.72 billion.

This month, Teva announced that the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission had been informed that Grace would exercise a two-year-old stock option allowing it to buy 15 per cent of Teva's shares for about \$10 million. At the same time, the company said that Teva would make an OTC stock offering worth roughly \$18 million and that Koor would sell off 15 per cent of its Teva stock for about the same amount.

In discussing Koor's diminished role, Hurvitz noted that it was rare for Koor to have less than a controlling interest in a company. Grace's role, he said, dashed Koor's hopes that it eventually would control the company. Ultimately, Koor could either retain its 25 per cent interest, which gives it minority rights, or divest itself completely, he said.

"In principle, Koor sees itself as a management company and not as an investment company," he said. While Grace buys a piece of the company, Teva is hoping to use the roughly \$36 million expected from the sale of stock by Koor and Teva to finance unspecified acquisitions in Western Europe.

Those European aspirations are based on optimism after finding what looks to be a lucrative niche in the U.S. Lemmon, rated as one of the leading generic-drug companies in the U.S., gave Teva a large marketing force of about 50 "detail



Scene inside the Teva Pharmaceutical plant in Jerusalem. (Prisma)

workers," health-care professionals who call on doctors and advise them on the latest products. Sales from TAG totalled \$24 million from April through December 1986, matching its totals for all of the previous fiscal year.

Within the U.S. market, Teva is pursuing a three-stage strategy for growth. The first stage involves the marketing of generic drugs, as Lemmon is doing. The second is to market patented products that can be differentiated from the rest of the market, such as a drug with a special time-release formula. The final stage involves marketing products developed through Teva's research.

As it happened, when Teva made its first shipment of drugs to the U.S. market aboard an El Al flight last September, Hurvitz and Suesskind were aboard. "There were three things of value on that plane," Suesskind said. "Eli and I and the drugs." Some 11 months later, Teva is preparing to market its first third-stage drug on the U.S. market. The drug, which combats bone brittleness in kidney dialysis patients, is the product of a Weizmann Institute team's chemistry and biochemistry, processing by Teva scientists and trials at seven Israeli medical centres.

Teva has filed with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to begin tests. Hurvitz said he hopes the Israeli-developed drug will be a money-maker. "But I also think it brings Israel to a certain niche of knowhow."

This sort of arrangement with the Weizmann Institute and other Israeli scientific centres has allowed Teva to cut its research and development risk by ensuring that any new products it tried to develop would have a substantial scientific foundation.

## THE TAX BURDEN/Jeff Broide

## Roundup of developments

Loosening of the export requirement for approved enterprises:

The various Income Tax incentives and other benefits governing approved enterprises were previously conditional on a minimum export requirement of 25 per cent of the turnover irrespective of whether the approved enterprise status approval stipulated an export requirement or not.

The Investment Centre was not committed to reduce this minimum requirement, but was authorised to make the tax benefits conditional on a higher export rate and also apply such export conditions to approved enterprises located in development areas; previously, many approved enterprises were granted such approval subject to meeting certain export requirements even before such Law existed.

However, under new legislation, promulgated in February 1987 and effective retroactively as of April 1, 1985, the export requirements have been loosened somewhat. In the wake of this new legislation, an approved enterprise may enjoy the tax benefits even when the export requirements indicated above have not been met with, but provided that no export requirement was stipulated in the original approval granted by the Investment Centre.

As regards enterprises whose approval was made conditional — in the letter of approval — on meeting certain export requirements, here the legal situation is unclear and it is not clear whether it was the intention of the legislature to cancel the export provision in this case as well or not, but this will have to wait for a further ruling from the authorities.

Recent Developments in National Insurance (Bituch Leumi):

Self-employed taxpayers may now make their regular monthly payments for National Insurance on the 15th of the month instead of on the 10th as was the case previously. Maximum monthly income on which National Insurance is paid for the second quarter of the year is NIS 4,900 and the minimum NIS 306.

The rate applicable is 7.9 per cent on monthly income up to NIS 613, and thereafter up to the maximum at a rate of 15.9 per cent. While the rate payable by employers has dropped from 20.7 per cent on salary to 16.2 per cent, the percentage payable by the employee of 5.35 per cent remains unchanged; where the employee is over 65 years of age or, in the case of women, over 60, the employer is entitled to a further reduction of 5.6 per cent on the amounts paid on the salary.

It is interesting to note that where a person travels overseas for a period exceeding six months, but excluding someone employed by an Israeli employer who is obligated to report thereon anyway, then such person is liable to a National Insurance premium of 10.9 per cent of half the National average salary, as determined. For example, for the last quarter this amount was NIS 1,839.

More On The 1987 Income Tax Reform:

Under the Income Tax reform, dividends distributed from regular income are liable to a 25 per cent tax rate in the hands of the individuals or foreign corporations or other associations; such dividends received by Israeli corporations are taxable at 8 1/2 per cent. This means, in essence, that Israeli shareholders will effectively pay taxes on distributed profits of 55 per cent after the tax reform, as opposed to 67 per cent before the tax reform. However, dividends distributed out of profits arising in tax years prior to 1987, or dividends distributed out of special income (that is, income liable to a limited Income Tax rate) will be limited to a tax saving of 8 1/2 per cent of the dividend distributed.

This limitation applies irrespective of the Income Tax rate payable by the company at the time such profits arose. As a result, in certain situations the Income Tax payable on dividends may be greater in certain instances after the tax reform than they were before in relation to dividends distributed out of profits arising prior to the 1987 tax year; for example, dividends out of regular

income give rise to a total tax obligation of 67 per cent before the tax reform and after the tax reform to a tax liability of 68.1 per cent (relevant for non-quoted shares).

However, dividends distributed out of taxable income from an industrial company, arising in the 1986 tax year were liable to a total tax liability of 67 per cent before the tax reform and 55 per cent after the tax reform. There are numerous other examples governing special and other industrial income.

The tax reform is effective for individual taxpayers only as of April 1, 1987, whereas for companies the tax reform is effective as of January 1; this is of particular significance in considering the payment of management and administration fees, rentals, salaries and other such payments to shareholders and directors, because the difference in tax rates between the individual and company in the 1987 year may amount to up to 7.8 per cent.

Amongst others, family corporations should give serious considerations to their "family status" for the 1987 tax year, as the tax saving here may be considerable; however, any change in such status will have longer reaching effects in that such change will have to be maintained for a period of at least three years.

Tax factors involved in "going public":

Numerous consequences flow from the decision to register a company on the stock exchange and issue shares to the public — financial, tax and other. We shall consider here the tax consequences.

The conversion of private shares to public shares is considered a sale of the shares, for purposes of Capital Gains Tax, as at the date of the share issue. However, the shareholders may request and be taxed on the sales of the shares at a later date and thus postpone the tax liability, but still retain the right to change their decision at the later date. (In the latter case, they would be liable to interest and linkage differences on the postponement.) Where a shareholder gives a gift of shares to a relative or other person and the gift is made in good faith (i.e. bona fide) then such a transfer of shares will not be treated as a sale for purposes of this paragraph.

The sale of shares, option or share rights traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange are exempt from Capital Gains Tax; this exemption enables the private investor to escape the Income Tax network. Where a person deals — i.e. buys and sells as part of an investment business — the profits are subject to regular taxes.

The Capital Gains Tax exemption indicated above does not apply, however, to the first sale of such shares or options which were previously granted postponement of the tax liability, as explained (in terms of Section 101 of the Income Tax Ordinance). However, where the company is an industrial one — under the Law for the Encouragement of Industry — that is, a company 90 per cent of whose income is from an industrial enterprise — then the sale of such shares may be exempt from tax if the following conditions are complied with:

• at the time of the offer, additional shares, or options to purchase shares within two years of the issue, must be offered to the public for at least one-third of the nominal value of the shares registered on the Stock Exchange;

• the shares registered on the TSE may not be sold for five years from the date of "going public" (viz. by the original shareholders).

Expenses incurred on "going public" may be deducted — by industrial companies only — in three equal annual instalments, starting with the tax year in which the expenses were incurred. Such expenses would appear to be non-deductible for tax purposes in regular companies. The Income Tax payable on dividends distributed by quoted companies is 25 per cent but is only 15 per cent where distributed from the income of an approved enterprise (under the Law of the Encouragement of Capital Investments).

The writer is a Certified Public Accountant (Israel).



## CROSSWORD

- 1 Railway enthusiast coaches a worker in ceramics (5-7)  
9 The time to take that gin cocktail (7,5)  
10 Expression 1 note is of interest to the entomologist (7)  
11 A dour Scot is hiding yours and mine (4)  
12 Where to conceal cash, so they say (5)  
13 A very large number consume it (4)  
16 One who tries to make a piece of embroidery (7)  
17 Operations room is where the drama is (7)  
18 Did 'President Roosevelt's policy call for a reshuffle' (3,4)

- 21 He may get a bird's-eye view of a Roman road and hill (7)  
23 Lack desire (4)  
24 Trevor has no right doing a somersault in public (5)  
25 Distress call from a man with a record (4)  
28 Bursters boast initially that it gives a lot of leverage (4-5)  
29 Brief recollection of Sid Rose (7)  
30 Despite that, is it for evermore? (12)

- 4 What the armed thug may take when cannabis is stolen (3-1)  
5 Go for a spin (4)  
6 I would enter a sporting contest — that's obvious (7)  
7 The food of rasher Elizabethan and Georgian statesmen? (3,8)  
8 "Rough water here by the harbour" (7,6)  
14 Tree most appropriate for the kirk (5)  
15 He tempts many to sin (5)  
19 Churning encouragement not to lose them all (7)  
20 The young boulder always gets let outside (7)  
21 Contract to construct a flyover (7)

- 1 Paddy has so much French spirit (7)  
2 Very little seafood is put in a herbal garnish (4)  
3 Unjust way to describe a brunette (3,4)

- 22 Male accessories fabricate in spite (3-4)  
26 Abel is utterly competent (4)  
27 It lies out at sea (4)

## Yesterday's Solution

ACROSS: 1. CHICK, 4. CARGO, 12. POSTMAN, 11. GRUEL, 12. TEETH, 13. SINCERE, 15. ECHO, 17. GLADE, 19. TEPEE, 22. LEAD, 25. PITFALL, 27. USHER, 29. ALERT, 30. ADAMANT, 31. LYNCH, 32. BERYL, DOWN: 2. ILIAS, 3. COWBOY, 5. ARGON, 6. GRUYERE, 7. SPATE, 8. FRESH, 9. FLEET, 14. LOTS, 16. CALL, 18. LOTTERY, 20. EDUCATE, 21. SURF, 23. ELGAR, 24. GRATE, 26. ATTIE, 28. HEADY.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1. Purloin, 4. Military headgear, 9. Understand, 10. Puzzle, 11. Liberal studies, 12. Speech, 13. Vail, 14. Halt, 16. Neat, 18. Tart, 20. Sedative, 21. Rice wine, 23. Telephone, 25. Classical jar, 26. Vers quick, 27. Step.

- DOWN: 1. Episodic drama, 2. Precise, 3. Non-lexical, 5. Speed up, 6. Deceive, 7. Belt, 8. Commenced, 13. Spatter, 15. Doubt, 17. Counting frame, 18. Foot lever, 19. Injust upon, 22. Over, 23. Blenish.

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# Farmers bemoan \$8 million loss on shmitta wheat

By ANDY COURT

While the general public has largely forgotten about the shmitta year wheat controversy, the country's wheat growers have an \$8 million reason to remember.

The growers say that the government still owes them that amount based on an agreed-upon price of \$193 per ton. So far the government has only paid the farmers a rate of \$162 per ton, and the farmers feel that they will suffer because of pressure ultra-Orthodox rabbis have successfully exerted on this year's grain trade.

Every seventh year Jews are forbidden to cultivate the biblical land of Israel. The chief Rabbinate allows farmers to sell the land to non-Jews, but this ruling is not acceptable to the ultra-Orthodox.

At a press conference in Jerusalem yesterday, representatives of the Field Crop Workers Association said they believe the Treasury had held up their grain payments because the Trade Ministry had not yet reached an agreement with flour mills and the ultra-Orthodox rabbinical court about the sale of locally grown grain.

"They're holding us hostages in

the meantime, and it's not right," said Yitzhak Ezra, a wheat farmer from the Negev. "The situation of farmers is difficult enough today as it is."

Several weeks ago, Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon agreed to import a large shipment of grain from the U.S. to appease, ultra-Orthodox rabbis who oppose the purchase of any locally grown grain because it is a sabbatical (shmitta) year.

This year's bountiful harvest of 260,000 tons is now sitting in storehouses and in open, uncovered bins, the farmers said. A worldwide wheat glut makes it difficult to export, and if much of the wheat is not purchased locally, the government is likely to lose money in transportation, storage and handling costs.

David Dor, secretary of the Field Workers Association, said that the farmers fear these costs will be passed on to them. But the truth, Dor said, is that storage and marketing of wheat is not the farmer's business.

Ultimately, the government will probably have to pay the farmers what it owes them, Ezra said. Then, if there are losses because of shmitta, the taxpayer will foot the bill.

# Hapoalim, First International respond to Leumi

By PINHAS LANDAU  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Bank Hapoalim and First International have unveiled their responses to Leumi's "daily account." Hapoalim is offering its own "super-profitable current account," and First International has upgraded its "improved current account" programme.

The three-week gestation period that Hapoalim took following Leumi's announcement was apparently not wasted, since the bank's careful calculations of what it could and could not allow itself to do have produced a scheme with distinct advantages over Leumi's, although some shortcomings as well.

Hapoalim's new account has the following features:

- It is open to all individuals, as is Leumi's, and to small firms, partnerships and self-employed businesses, which Leumi is not.
- It gives interest on credit balances in the account, from the first shekel

to a ceiling of NIS 5,000, at a rate of 7 per cent (at the moment). Larger sums are expected to be transferred to a deposit account, of the new Pachak sort that will replace the Tapes next month. This will have to be ordered by the customer and will not happen automatically. Interest will be paid on the basis of each day's balance.

The Leumi account pays interest only from a minimum of NIS 150, and to a maximum of NIS 1,000, after which the customer is expected to use other channels, which pay higher rates.

However, the "daily account" introduced by Leumi contained two major novelties in the Israeli banking scene, only one of which—interest on daily balances in current accounts—has been followed up and improved upon by Hapoalim.

The other concept, of "free banking" or a near-total waiving of transaction charges, which Leumi has in-

stituted for everything except small cheque payments of up to NIS 50, has been virtually ignored by Hapoalim. Only transactions involving investments, such as deposits or the purchase and sale of securities or foreign currency, will be free. Cheques, other withdrawals, deposits, standing orders and other day-to-day transactions will still be charged for.

Overdraft facilities will be available in the new "super-profitable current accounts" as previously, with a starting price of 2 per cent per month and a limit of NIS 150,000 in the shekel-for-shekel scheme.

The scheme will go into operation at the beginning of next week, and all existing current-account holders may apply to switch.

First International's starting point was much stronger than Hapoalim's, because its "improved current account" already offered no charges except on cheque transactions. It has now introduced a two-lane road of

current accounts paying interest on credit balances.

One will automatically pay interest—of 7.5%, thereby stealing a march on the big two—on balances from the first shekel to a ceiling of NIS 1,000. This will be done in the client's existing account, and requires no extra paperwork on his part. However, if the interest due for a given month amounts to less than one shekel, the bank will not pay any.

This means that a person holding a steady balance of up to NIS 160 throughout the month will not receive interest, at present interest rates. But if he has a higher average, with varying amounts at different times, then even the smallest sums will receive the interest due them, whereas the Leumi system gives nothing for every day in which the balance is below NIS 150.

This account will not carry any service charge. The other option open to First International customers

is to open a special current account in which the interest of 7.5 per cent per annum is paid on any amount of money, with no ceiling. This will cost NIS 3 shekels per month, and it is difficult to see who might benefit from it, because customers with larger sums will transfer them to the new Pachak accounts, where they can earn 14 per cent currently.

In addition to these innovations, First International has raised the authorized overdraft available to personal customers from NIS 1,500 to NIS 4,000. This is now the largest regular overdraft facility offered in the banking system, and at 2.25 per cent, is one of the cheapest, but the bank will demand collateral from borrowers in these accounts.

Discount and Mizrahi have yet to make counter-moves to Leumi's initiatives, and the responses of Hapoalim and First International will make the choices harder and more expensive for these banks.

## First International profits up 150 per cent

TEL AVIV. — First International Bank yesterday announced a net profit of NIS 25 million for the first half of 1987—over 150 per cent more than the bank achieved in the same period last year, on an inflation-adjusted basis.

The jump in net profits gave the bank a net return on equity of almost 17 per cent, a level considered good by international standards.

The gross profits of First International, the smallest but consistently the most profitable of Israel's five major banking groups, rose 73 per cent by comparison with last year, to NIS 55m.

The bank's board, now back under the firm control of attorney Yigal Arnon, after his resignation was rejected by his fellow directors, decided to distribute a dividend of 100 per cent on the nominal value of each share. This will cost the bank NIS 4.56m.

As with other reports of half-yearly figures already published, the effect of a lower tax bite showed through clearly in the much larger growth of net profits compared to gross. However, the bank's managing-director Shalom Singer was at pains to point out, at a press conference held to mark the occasion, that the gross profits had been lowered by a "very conservative approach" to doubtful debts, with management making provisions for losses wherever they thought a significant risk existed.

Again in line with other results, it seems that the springboard of First International's profits has been the expansion of loans to the public, which grew by 13 per cent in the half-year, to NIS 2.35b. Within this category, unlinked shekel loans, on which profit margins are largest, grew by 50 per cent from their total at the end of 1986.

Total assets gained 6 per cent to

stand at NIS 4.8b., and deposits from the public rose over 12 per cent to NIS 2.8b.

Singer noted that on the basis of Bank of Israel figures, First International had increased its market share in all the main areas of banking activity in the past half year. In the second quarter the bank had received some 20 per cent of total deposits to approved savings schemes—compared to its 8 per cent share of the total banking system.

The increase in capital means, stemming from net profits, plus the revaluation of foreign investments in Britain and Switzerland, and after the payment of the dividend, amounted to NIS 20m., and brought the bank's total to NIS 296m. This gives First International a capital/assets ratio of 6.2 per cent, by far the best of any Israeli bank and a superior level by U.S. standards as well.

## DEMJANJUK ON TRIAL

(Continued from Page One)

"But you'd be happy not to be in Israel either."

Demjanjuk: "I think nobody fought like I did to prove his innocence. You can't prove I was in Treblinka except through a forged Soviet document (the Travniki ID card). If I lose, my children will continue the fight."

Judge Dalia Dorner: "Just answer the questions. You choose to testify in your own behalf, so go ahead and do so."

Demjanjuk: "I can't forget and forgive what was done to me over the last ten years."

Blatman: "You claim that you were 18 months at the Chelm prison camp, starving and doing slave labour, but at your U.S. hearing you only mention the few weeks you stayed at the Rovno camp, but made no mention of Chelm."

Demjanjuk: "There are things in my life which I would like to forget, that is the same as you feel about the Holocaust."

The witness then recounted how in 1977 he and his family looked for a lawyer and how at the hearing the next year he "forgot" to mention the name of Chelm.

Blatman: "You remembered the name of Rovno, the camp where you spent only a few weeks after your capture—but it is hard to believe that you forgot the name Chelm. And this despite the fact that you had months to prepare your answers after you received the original indictment."

At this Demjanjuk tried to bring examples of how other people also forgot things. He cited the case of police chief superintendent Alexander Ish-Shalom, who interrogated him at Ramla jail and later testified that at interrogation, according to Demjanjuk, Ish-Shalom "forgot" several facts during his testimony.

Demjanjuk to Blatman: "You also forgot things."

Blatman: "Don't try and play games with me."

Blatman then reminded the witness that in his U.S. hearing he was given a second and even a third chance to remember the name Chelm.

Demjanjuk: "You're an educated man and you can forget. I only have a grade-four education—so I forget. Perhaps only God knows how this came about."

Blatman: "I see that God gave you a good memory. You remember clearly the cities where you were hospitalized after you were wounded in the fighting on the Dnieper—Melitopol, Stalino, Berdiansk and Tbilisi. Only Chelm you forget."

Demjanjuk: "These hospitals were in cities in my country; I would not forget them easily."

Blatman: "But you also remembered the names of German towns where you were after the war, such as Landshtut, Regensburg and Ulm."

Demjanjuk: "That is because I

stayed at these places for longer periods."

At one stage during the questioning there was an outburst by Demjanjuk, who said that he would like to forget all his experiences as a prisoner of war. He said that after being in jail for over two years now, it was painful to be forced to bring all these things out again.

Judge Levin patiently explained to Demjanjuk that the court was giving him every chance to explain himself. "I understand," said the accused. Then he continued: "I lie in my cell all the time now and think and remember my youth. But in the United States I had a good life, and I didn't think about all that."

But Blatman becoming quite eloquent in his steady and solemn way, kept hammering away at the crucial question.

"Three times under oath you were asked your alibi—and three times you did not know!"

The clear implication was that the accused had been at Chelm not at all or only a short while, and that he was from there or from Rovno recruited for the Travniki SS training camp—leading to Treblinka.

Levin again intervened and explained the concept of an alibi to the accused. He stressed how strange his failure to remember Chelm must seem to the prosecution.

At this stage Demjanjuk finally took up on the lead his defence counsel had given him earlier, when Yoram Sheffel had demanded that Blatman show the accused the documents on which he was basing his questions. Demjanjuk asked to see the papers and Blatman submitted to Demjanjuk the transcript of the U.S. hearing during which the Chelm question was asked three times. Sheffel went over the document with his client.

Levin remarked to prosecutor Blatman that he was permitting this time-consuming procedure only for the sake of complete fairness. "I'm doing this to give the accused the fullest opportunity to explain himself in this difficult case. Justice must also be seen to be done."

After reading the transcript, Demjanjuk said: "I can't explain why I forgot."

Blatman: "Perhaps the explanation for all this forgetting is that you never were at the Chelm camp."

Demjanjuk: "That's what you say."

Blatman: "And what do you say?"

Demjanjuk: "I say that I was at the Rovno and Chelm camps, but not at Travniki or Treblinka. That is something you will have to prove."

At that stage, with the clock showing a few minutes after 6 p.m., the lights in the courtroom went out, as if to indicate that this was a good moment to end the session. While policemen and officers immediately surrounded the accused, Judge Levin declared the session closed.

Demjanjuk's cross-examination continues today.

## Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

Name	Price	Volume	%						
		NIS	change						
<b>Commercial Banks</b>									
(last price of "arrangement")									
ORH	21400	7	-0.9						
Meritline 0.1			no trading						
General non-arr.	19800	34	+0.8						
FIBI			no trading						
<b>Commercial Banks</b>									
(last price of "arrangement")									
Idar	102380	462	-						
Union 0.1			-0.9						
Discount	131200	276	-						
Mizrahi	42480	194	-						
Hapoalim 1	16008		+0.3						
Hapoalim 1	178054	39	+0.5						
Leumi 100.0	44320	225	+0.3						
Fin. Trade	59030	-	-0.3						
<b>Mortgage Banks &amp; Finance</b>									
Leumi Mort. f	8000	54	-3.7						
Dev. Mort.	2240	798	-5.8						
Mizrahi f	3630	544	-						
Tefahot f	23180	186	-1.6						
Merar f	8000	235	-4.8						
Int. Ind. f	12000	10	-2.6						
Cit. Lending 0.1	19300	15	-1.0						
J.E.C.	298	5296	-2.4						
Bayisde 0.1	4050	2240	-0.1						
lerna	17700								
Azotim Prom.	308	4750	-1.0						
Mahadrin Prom.	6300	2502	-3.8						
Mahadrin Prom.	1710	1480	-4.2						
Dubek b	5800	1512	-2.7						
Tampco 1.0	35300	890	-2.1						
Southport 1.0	146500	100	-3.4						
Asia	401	7440	-4.1						
Argaman	556	2389	-2.1						
Debra Gali	12130	100	-4.5						
Liqui	3070	298							
Polgit	1585	268	-5.3						
Gilboa Street	11840	88	-3.1						
Union 0.1 tr	6380								
Witak-Catell	416	7752	+1.0						
Cit. Can Co. 1.0	4210	2586	-4.6						
Zion Cabtel 5.0	1332	2177	-3.6						
Peled-Sinor	2700	567							
Electra 0.1	1841	2388	-7.1						
Ayco	25300	150	-2.8						
Cit. Electronics	2240	8038	-4.7						
Spectronik 1.0		1380	3534	-4.1					
T.A.T. 1.0		1400	448	-2.1					
Y.P. Cit		181	13821	-4.0					
Adi-Sinclair 1.0		880	2673						
Agan		1585	3563	-3.4					
Alliance		2270	120	-5.4					
Gil Indus. 1.0		970	2382						
Herfinitas 1.0		4000	76	-0.7					
Haifa Chem.		870	8452	-4.0					
Perkasee		472	10348	-10.1					
Frederman		33000	147	-4.3					
Kater		244	8273	-8.2					
Koor p		12198	800	-2.2					
<b>Investment Companies</b>									
Israel Corp. 1.0		4300	5676	-5.5					
Wolfson 1 r	122000		-8.4						
Hapoalim Invest.		8800	8951	-5.4					
Mizrahi Invest.	21800	9	+0.8						
Yisusam		228	21430	-0.9					
Pama 0.1		7523	40						
Prison		7752	40	-5.0					
<b>Oil Exploration</b>									
Per Oil Expl.		27300	141	-3.2					
J.O.E.L.		435	35708	-15.4					

Due to technical difficulties, yesterday's indices and trends were not available for publication.



# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## Tolerating intolerance

DOES the guaranteed right to freedom of expression in a democratic society, however broadly interpreted, include the right to publicly advocate the denial of the right of any group in society to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness — and freedom of expression — in their places of legal habitation? Is there, in other words, no limit to the tolerance of intolerance before it is too late to limit it?

That is the question reopened by the High Court of Justice this week in finding for Meir Kahane and his Kach movement against the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

All three justices who sat on the case — Aharon Barak, Gavriel Bach and Shoshana Netanyahu — agreed that the IBA must rescind its blanket three-year old ban on granting access to the Knesset's one-man racist faction for the expression of its views. The court, speaking through Justice Barak, ordered the IBA to air not only "newsworthy reports" about Meir Kahane, as it had done so far, but Kach's views, just as it publicizes the opinions of other parties and factions.

Unless, that is, the IBA is persuaded, on each and every specific occasion, that by so doing it would be creating a "proximate certainty" of harm to public order — meaning to the democratic system, to the security of the public and to the feelings of the public and sections of it.

The IBA should have little difficulty in complying with this order. Its original ban on Meir Kahane was sweeping. Now it is obliged to make specific judgments. This means that if the Kach leader is willing to await his turn to unburden himself on some inoffensive issue, there is no reason why he should not be offered some suitable radio and television forum. It is not after all, as if he were never heard or seen on the electronic media before.

If, however, Kahane should for very long be refused broadcasting time to explain his proposal, already made in and reported from the Knesset, that Israel be renamed Judea and that all non-Jews within its borders be expelled, and then take his complaint to the High Court again, a problem might emerge.

For on the legal theory behind the court's ruling, the three justices differed rather widely. Justice Barak, in his magisterial dissection of the case, propounded what amounts to an Israeli version of the "absolutist" Black-Douglas reading of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press," and the IBA shall do nothing to abridge Kahane's freedom of expression, unless it is very nearly certain that he will thereby do harm to the "public order."

The argument in effect derives from Oliver Wendell Holmes' old dictum that the highest constitutional principle is the principle of free thought — "not free thought for those who agree with us, but freedom for the thought we hate."

Justice Holmes died before the rise of 20th century racism and totalitarianism. Yet ruling today, Justice Barak, to whom Kahanism is personally an abomination, finds the IBA's denial of access to Israel's arch-racist to violate this bedrock of democratic principle. Nor does he believe that granting such access would constitute a *prima facie* violation of the recent anti-racist additions to the Penal Law.

A courteous but sharp dissent from Justice Barak's view by Justice Bach, and a very brief and non-committal opinion by Justice Netanyahu, left the central issue unresolved: is enunciation of racist doctrine itself sufficient ground for denial of access to the state media, or must it pass a pragmatic test of its likely harmful impact in every instance before it is so declared?

The court would, of course, have had less difficulty reaching consensus on fundamentals had the Knesset summoned the courage to write the long-awaited Bill of Rights. Or, at least, had it heeded Justice Miriam Ben-Porat's urgent call, in her separate opinion allowing Kach to run in the last general election, "for legislation that would keep subversive parties from infiltrating parliament."

## TRANSFER

(Continued from Page One)

Radio: "I'm not suggesting forced repatriation. I suggest that the western countries, particularly the U.S. start to think (about the problem), not just us or the Arabs."

"The way is by international agreement not by force. The world should get used to the idea, the alternative is that events here could eventually destabilize the entire region."

Peres fielded a total of six motions for the agenda ranging from compensation for Jewish property remaining in Arab countries to U.S. — Israel relations, peace, compensation for the Ras Burka massacre victims and Russia's warnings on nuclear weapons.

But he yielded not an inch to any MK, whether from the right or the left.

The minister's attack on Dekel came in answer to motions from Labour-Yahad MK Binjamin Ben-Eliezer and the Likud's Eliahu Ben-Elissar on Jewish property abandoned in Arab lands.

Dekel's idea, said Peres, that America would aid Israel in any transfer of the Arab population of the country was "totally baseless."

The U.S. had its own ideas on solving the region's problems. Arabs were not ready to be "transferred." And Israel was not in the business of trade-offs, said Peres.

Nevertheless, with Peres's agreement and the Knesset's approval, the subject will be given a full-scale hearing in the plenum at some future time.

Peres had nothing but scorn for Tehiya's Yuval Ne'eman and his attempt to blame the government for what he termed a decline in relations with the U.S.

But Ne'eman's colleague, Geula Cohen, then switched the attack to an offensive against U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, and what Cohen termed his "interference in internal Israeli affairs."

Peres would not take that. If the intent was to improve relations with the U.S., he taunted, then Pickering's voice must be heard. What did the Tehiya want? he asked.

In a departure from recent months, during which Peres has not spared Citizens Rights Movement Yossi Sarid any of his biting sarcasm, the foreign minister took a softer line against his one-time party colleague, when he presented a motion for the agenda on the peace-process.

But, said Peres, the reasons that Israel sought peace were not those put forward by Sarid. It was not to solve Arab problems or to keep in step with the world, but "for Israel's own sake," that peace was sought.

Peres's reply to Sarid's motion on peace was interrupted repeatedly by Likud cries of "Munich!"

Was Camp David a Munich? Peres hurled back at the hecklers.

Chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Abba Eban, said yesterday that Dekel's proposal was "morally and intellectually abhorrent." He suggested that the most appropriate transfer would be that of Dekel out of his position as deputy minister of defence.

Likud MK Dan Meridor strongly condemned Dekel's proposal, while Likud faction chairman Sara Doron said: "It contradicts Ze'ev Jabotinsky's philosophy, and it does not square with the positions of the Likud faction members."

Doron said that the Likud had never discussed the transfer idea, and would certainly quash it if it ever came up. The Likud, in fact, would continue to meet Judea and Samaria Arabs in order to promote the peace process.

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality presented a motion of no-confidence in the government over Dekel's declaration, to be debated next week, while the Progressive Peace List wrote to Attorney-General Yosef Harish, asking him to probe whether Dekel should be prosecuted for violating the law against genocide.

Yair Tsaban (Mapam) said that Dekel should be dismissed from his post as deputy minister of defence. Ran Cohen (Citizens Rights Movement) said that Dekel, who had suffered from Nazi persecution, had now adopted the transfer idea from his own persecutors.

# The haredim want to make us all into Amish

Jacob Neusner

THE REPRESENTATION of Tora-true Judaism by the haredim is sound on every point. Knowledgeable people can quote chapter and verse in Talmudic writings in support of their position on all matters. On issue after issue they represent the Tora — oral and written — precisely as the received, classical sources portray it.

And that is precisely why the policies and programme of the ultra-Orthodox, and therefore of the Judaism of the oral and written Tora offer no meaningful option to Jews in the world today. I do not say, to "Orthodox" or "religious" Jews, but to any Jews. The appeal of the haredim is that they portray "Judaism", or the Tora, more authentically than anyone else, more so than Western or Modern Orthodoxy, more so than the Zionist-religious parties. And that appeal, to the spiritual and the romantic in us all, is very real. It is why they are growing through conversion to their brand of Judaism of the religious-Zionist and the secular alike.

However, the 95 per cent of the Jews who instinctively reject the haredi reading of the Tora make a sound judgement. The claim to authenticity requires us to ask whether the Tora, as the haredim represent it, can serve in the 21st century. And I think it cannot.

The Tora, as the haredim read it (rightly, as I said) omits all systematic doctrine on three critical matters of contemporary life: politics, economics, and science. Therefore, Jews who act according to the precepts of the Tora, oral and written, live only a partial life and, in effect, dismantle the Jewish state.

Jews living in the Gola with no position on politics, economics and science must simply retreat into ghettos, having no way to cope with the formative forces in the world today. The haredim want to make us

all into Amish, and the Jews are not going to agree, even though more than a few would like to walk out on the world as it is.

The three most powerful and formative forces in all human civilization today are democracy, capitalism, and science, and on those three subjects, authentic, classical Judaism, accurately represented by the haredim, either has nothing at all to say, or simply says the wrong things.

We cannot look to the haredim for intelligent public policy. The haredim can make their extravagant claims on the rest of the Jewish people only by relating to us as follows: we do the politics, the economics, and the science, so they can live out their private lives in a corner. Abandon the Jewish state and give up all public life: that is the message of their authentic Judaism, with its staggering silence on democracy, capitalism, and science and technology.

We look in vain in the Talmud and related writings for a political theory that fits the politics of a democratic state. If the haredim gain in politics, it will bring democracy in the state of Israel to an end, pure and simple.

We find nothing in the sources that makes possible scientific inquiry, that is, systematic formulation of theory and empirical testing of hypothesis. When philosophy, including science, found a place within Judaism, it was only because of the entry of modes of thought deriving not from Talmudic but from Greek and Islamic sources. And they were perceived as alien. The great philosophers and scientists did not come from the circles who studied only the Tora, and Tora institutions did not produce philosophy and science.

The haredim have nothing of interest to say to the world of science and technology, nor do they believe they have anything to learn from it. But that is where the world is made today.

Systematic thought on economics, such as the Mishna assuredly presupposes, had by the end of Talmudic times given way to an essentially magical conception that if one studies Tora, economic questions will solve themselves. Rational decision-making, the conception of a market and of a market economy — these find no place in the (at best) petty entrepreneurial thinking of the Tora in its authentic mode. Consequently, Judaism as the haredim accurately represent it is silent on questions of economics. How can people utterly ignorant of economics pretend to govern a modern state or to lead the Jewish community overseas?

MODERN ORTHODOXY in the U.S., the Orthodoxy of Bar Ilan University and Yeshiva University, and of the Israeli Zionist-Religious parties, have all made ample room for science, democracy, and economic theory in the curriculum of the academy, and also in formulation of public policy (though here, the Zionist-Religious parties seem to leave such matters to the partners in whatever coalition gives them their annual prohibition of pork or its counterpart). Western Orthodoxy appears to be losing out to the claim of Tora-true authenticity set forth by the haredim.

It is pure romanticism or utter fantasy to opt for the authentic, merely because it is true about the things of which it speaks. Jewish public life, both in the Gola and in the Jewish state, must also ask about the ominous silences. The Judaism of the Talmud represented by the haredim, simply cannot and will not work, not because it is wrong or

## Dry Bones' LETTER FROM AMERICA



humanly deficient, but because it falls silent when the work of the world has to be done.

No state can work without well-crafted public policy, without economic policy, without access to science and technology. Any lingering appeal of the haredim to that isolationism that makes us Jews want to turn our backs on the world, any deep impulse in us all to be only Jewish, always Jewish, and in the right way, the way of the Tora of Sinai — any appeal to that profound sense in us all of our Jewishness as our fate, faith and destiny will have to compete with another appeal.

It is the appeal to the simple fact that, if we are going to live in the 21st century, we require not only the Tora but also economics, politics, science and technology. World Jewry has no choice but to turn its back on the haredim, as they have turned

their backs on the 21st century — and for precisely the same reason.

They are right, and therefore must reject them and their authentic Tora. After all, there were valid reasons for inventing Reform Judaism and the Orthodoxy of Samson Raphael Hirsch, the religious-Zionist parties, Reconstructionist Judaism, Jewish socialism, secular Judaism and Yiddishism, and all the rest. Their haredi opposition rightly claimed that they were not authentic. And the opposition was right. But Reform Judaism and Western Orthodoxy and the religious Zionists had still more reason on their side, because they were, and remain, relevant. And the haredim still have nothing whatsoever to say on the urgent issues of the hour.

Prof. Neusner directs the programme in Judaic Studies at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

## READERS' LETTERS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — Former Chief Rabbi, Shlomo Goren concludes his learned exposition of various principles for determining the correct timing of Shabbat in countries with midnight sun (July 10), by stating that "...the Scandinavian communities have dwindled (spiritually) to such a degree that we cannot rely on their religious leaders in matters regarding Shabbat and times for prayer..." This conclusion is without any basis in the arguments presented in the article.

The conclusion is even more difficult to understand, considering that the communities of Copenhagen, Stockholm, Oslo, Helsinki and Malmo have for many years been served by rabbis who obtained their rabbinical training from Orthodox institutions in Israel; in fact some of them have received their *smicha* from Rabbi Goren himself. More important, these rabbis are universally respected by their congregations for their ability to reach out to all members of their communities, both liberal and Orthodox.

Having participated in the leadership of the biggest of the Scandinavian Jewish communities, to which I had been elected to represent religious interests among other things, I remember instances of interference by then Chief Rabbi Goren, who never accepted our repeated invitations to inspect personally the institutions he criticized. By his unjustified attacks on the spiritual leaders of our community, Rabbi Goren succeeded only in causing repulsion for religiously-inclined among the members of the community.

DAVID ENK, M.D.  
Jerusalem.

Sir, — I am an Orthodox new immigrant from Denmark and until a year ago I was a member of the Board of Deputies of the Danish Jewish Community.

Jerusalem.

## JEWIS IN THE FAR NORTH

There is no Scandinavian Jewish community north of the Polar Circle; the only Jews up there in the long darkness are the Jewish soldiers in Greenland at the American Thule Base. They have their own rabbis and I am quite sure they know when Shabbat begins and ends.

In a large area like Scandinavia (four countries), there are many Jewish communities and consequently many rabbis — and of course they have differing points of view on many things. But it is interesting to note that Israeli shops and supermarkets sell Scandinavian food with Scandinavian kosher certificates. This is possible because Scandinavian rabbis are recognized in Israel, despite Rabbi Goren's statement that "they have dwindled (spiritually)."

BENT SCHALIMTZER  
Ra'anana.

Sir, — I read Rabbi Shlomo Goren's most fascinating article on "Shabbat in the land of the midnight sun" with great interest, and admiration for the learned Rabbi's deep research in the subject.

I then looked at the date at the top of the page. No, it was not April first, nor was it Purim, so I could only conclude that Rabbi Goren was treating the subject seriously.

Has Rabbi Goren ever ascertained how many Jews, let alone observant ones, can be found north of the Arctic Circle (or south of the Antarctic Circle for that matter)? I doubt if even a *minyana* could be found. I am sure that Abraham our forefather could have found more righteous men in Sodom than Jews in the far frozen north.

I suggest that Rabbi Goren stick to parachuting. He'll find himself on firmer ground.

NORMAN M. YOUNG  
Jerusalem.

Sir, — I spent three years in the

northern regions of Alaska and was most interested to read Rabbi Goren's halachic ruling on "Shabbat in the land of the midnight sun."

The question of when to observe Shabbat was frequently discussed among the religious in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and even Barrow — the top of the world as they call it. Some referred to a ruling given by a Seattle rabbi that we should follow Seattle's calendar for lighting candles and ending Shabbat. (In Barrow, the sun does not set in summer, nor rise in winter, for 72 days!)

I have mailed the ruling to the Orthodox community in Anchorage for distribution throughout the far north. It may change the way many Jews in Alaska (and there are a lot of us) observe Shabbat.

SCOTT SOBEL  
Jerusalem.

Sir — Rabbi Goren writes that the Jewish communities in Scandinavia do not follow the rules of halacha when setting the times for the beginning and ending of Shabbat, but follow the timetable of Hamburg, Altona and Ansbach. Ansbach, a town in southern Germany, appears strange in this connection; surely what Rabbi Goren has in mind is Wandsbeck, a district of Hamburg.

Rabbi Goren's information about the practices of the Scandinavian

communities is without foundation. Our calendar is exclusively based on the actual times of sunset and sunrise in Stockholm, and other communities in Scandinavia observe their own local times. Thus, according to our Stockholm calendar, on June 20 this year, which is the longest day, Shabbat started at 21.45 and ended at 23.49.

Even the big liberal synagogue in Stockholm observes the same times. In practice however, our *Kabbalat Shabbat* services during the summer always start at 19.30 or 20.00, even if according to the calendar, Shabbat starts later, as otherwise it would be impossible to get a *minyana*. This is of course halachically in order, as Rabbi Goren confirms in his article.

In his last paragraph, Rabbi Goren writes about the dwindling spirit of the Scandinavian communities and adds that one cannot rely on their religious leaders. This is an unjustified slur on several young rabbis, all of them graduates of Israeli yeshivot, who have been serving in Scandinavian communities in recent years; as a matter of fact, rather than dwindling, the Jewish spirit today is probably higher than it has been in many years.

JOSEPH HOFFMAN  
President  
Congregation Adath Jeshurun  
Stockholm.

## RECALCITRANT HUSBANDS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — The article on Ma'asiyahu Open Prison (July 12) ends with a casual reference to one of the inmates, who has for 26 years preferred to be incarcerated there rather than give his wife the *get* (divorce) decreed by a rabbinical court.

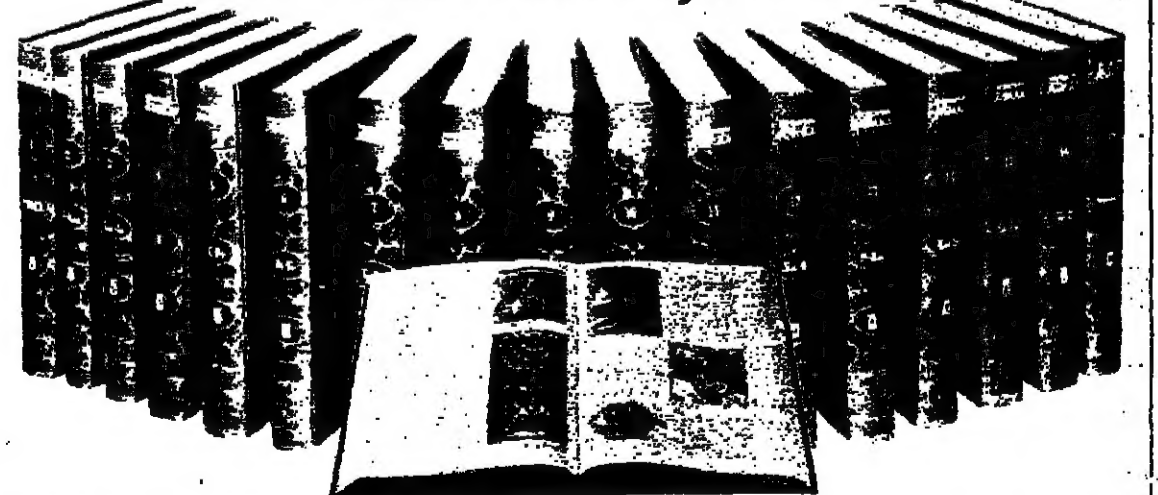
Jewish law sanctions the use of the strictest and most stringent measures of coercion in order to compel the most recalcitrant husbands to accede to court decisions on divorce. One cannot help thinking that, had the Israeli judicial and prison authorities complied with the spirit of *halacha* — for example, by putting the man concerned in solitary confinement rather than in the comparative comfort of the open prison — he might have reconsidered his actions.

Too little thought is given to the victims of recalcitrance, the *agunot* (anchored wives) who, left in limbo, are neither supported by their estranged husbands, nor free to remarry. It is they who are the true objects of compassion and in need of redress.

PROF. ALICE SHALVI  
Chairperson,  
The Israel Women's Network  
Jerusalem.

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